

ROYAL COMMISSION ON CONGESTION IN IRELAND.

FIRST APPENDIX

TO THE

SEVENTH REPORT.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

(TAKEN IN IRELAND, 16TH MAY TO 11TH JUNE, 1907),

AND

DOCUMENTS RELATING THERETO.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.



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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page
<i>List of Members of the Commission,</i>	iii
<i>Terms of Reference,</i>	iii
<i>List of Witnesses,</i>	iv
<i>Digest of Evidence,</i>	v
<i>Minutes of Evidence,</i>	1
<i>Index to Appendices,</i>	265
<i>Appendices,</i>	267

ROYAL COMMISSION ON CONGESTION IN IRELAND

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.

The Right Hon. The EARL OF DUBLIN, G.C.V.O. (Chairman).

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The Right Hon. Sir JOHN C. R. COLONS, K.C.M.G.

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TERMS OF REFERENCE.

"To inquire into and report upon the operations of the Acts dealing with Congestion in Ireland, the working of the Congested Districts Board, and the Land Commission under these Acts, and the relations of the Board with the Land Commission and the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction; what areas (if any) outside the districts now scheduled as congested, require to be dealt with as congested; what lands are most conveniently situated for the relief of congestion; what changes in law or administration are needed for dealing with the problem of congestion as a whole, for facilitating the migration of the surplus population from congested areas to other lands, and generally for bettering the condition of the people inhabiting congested areas."

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF WITNESSES.

	Page of Deposition.	Page of Examination.		Page of Deposition.	Page of Examination.
Agnew, Rev. Thos., &c.,	xxxv.	110	M'Alister, Mr. Daniel,	xxiii.	73
Aird, Mr. James J.,	liii.	108	M'Alister, Mr. Patrick,	xxix.	95
Anderson, Mr. Andrew,	xlv.	139	M'Almon, Mr. Terence,	xlvi.	145
			M'Alster, Rev. J., &c.,	lv.	163
Bell, Mr. W. R.,	ix.	18	M'Auley, Mr. Bernard,	xxiv.	75
Black, Mr. Alexander,	xxi.	55	M'Auliffe, Mr. John,	lxvi.	219
Black, Mr. Denis,	xxv.	79	M'Brade, Mr. Patrick,	xi.	135
Blady, Rev. Owen, &c.,	xliii.	147	M'Callaway, Mr. Peter,	l.	140
Brown, Mr. Thomas,	lv.	161	M'Cambridge, Mr. John,	xliii.	77
Brown, Mr. Ernest,	lx.	178	M'Can, Rev. Thomas,	xx.	84
Byrne, Mr. John,	xv.	45	M'Canby, Mr. William,	xli.	123
			M'Cloy, Mr. Alexander,	xxiv.	76
Campson, Mr. Bady J.,	lvi.	164	M'Conalogue, Rev. John, &c.,	xxv.	107
Carney, Mr. James,	xlv.	140	M'Connell, Mr. Charles,	xxvi.	63
Carey, Mr. George,	lxv.	195	M'Connell, Mr. Patrick,	xxvii.	73
Carey, Mr. Patrick,	lxix.	177	M'Connell, Mr. Hugh,	xi.	123
Cassidy, Mr. James,	xlvi.	145	M'Oallagh, Mr. Peter (Arlinghorth),	xxviii.	115
Clancy, Rev. James, &c.,	lxvi.	197	M'Oallagh, Mr. Peter (Anghmash),	xxvi.	113
Clarke, Mr. Charles E.,	xi.	120	M'Curdy, Mr. John,	xxviii.	37
Clarke, Mr. Patrick,	xlv.	141	M'Curdy, Mr. John (Craghsnaregan),	xix.	56
Clark, Mr. Peter,	xxviii.	103	M'Evey, Mr. John,	xli.	15
Cleary, Mr. James,	xxix.	147	M'Farlane, Mr. James,	xxx.	95
Colman, Mr. Michael,	lxix.	213	M'Gowan, Rev. Thomas,	xliii.	134
Conditine, Mr. Michael,	lvi.	166	M'Gowan, Rev. Michael,	xxvii.	87
		and 173	M'Gowan, Rev. E. V.,	xix.	40
Conway, Mr. Patrick,	xxx.	96	M'Guire, Rev. J.,	xvii.	55
Corr, Rev. Thomas, &c.,	xlv.	138	M'Guire, Mr. Hugh,	xlviii.	146
Crawford, Mr. Walter R.,	xxviii.	105	M'Guire, Rev. J. R., &c.,	xlvii.	144
Culliton, Mr. Louis,	lv.	164	M'Kenna, Very Rev. Eugene Canam,	vii.	12
			M'Kinlay, Mr. Denis,	xxv.	80
Dallinger, Mr. Percy G.,	xxviii.	116	M'Mann, Mr. Bernard,	xlii.	132
		and 129	M'Mann, Mr. Henry V.,	lviii.	163
Daly, Mr. Thomas K.,	lxvii.	200	M'Mann, Mr. Michael,	lxix.	215
Delaney, Mr. Timothy,	lxix.	215	M'Neill, Captain James,	xxv.	73
Delany, Mr. William, &c.,	lv.	162	M'Quig, Mr. John,	lviii.	57
		and 165	M'Quill, Mr. James,	ix.	18
De Longy, Mr. Hugh,	xxv.	70	Meehan, Mr. P. A., &c.,	l.	151, 160
Dermody, Mr. John,	l.	149			and 165
Dobbs, Mr. St. Clair M.,	xxii.	69	Meenal, Mr. Michael,	lxix.	193
Dolan, Mr. Patrick,	xlv.	135	Moore, Mr. James,	xxv.	109
Donnell, Mr. John,	xli.	126	Morris, Mr. Solomon,	xxviii.	90
Donnelly, Mr. Alexander,	xxix.	96	Morrow, Mr. Andrew,	xli.	33
Donnelly, Rev. J. J., &c.,	xli.	29	Mullaghan, Rev. Denis, &c.,	xlii.	37
Doris, Mr. John, &c.,	xxx.	97	Murphy, Rev. R. J., &c.,	x.	23
Driscoll, Mr. James,	lxix.	217	Murray, Mr. John,	lxix.	192
			Murray, Mr. Patrick (Castlewallowan),	xlii.	37
Finegan, Rev. Patrick,	xliii.	136	Murray, Mr. Patrick (Glendon),	xxv.	80
Finlay, Mr. Maurice,	xxvi.	81			
France, Mr. Harry,	liii.	157	O'Boyle, Mr. John,	xxiv.	75
			O'Connor, Mr. William,	lxix.	211
Glass, Mr. James,	xix.	60	O'Connor, Dan, The, &c.,	lxix.	221
Glynn, Rev. P., &c.,	lx.	102	O'Doherty, Rev. Philip, &c.,	xxix.	122
Graham, Mr. James,	xxv.	78	O'Hare, Mr. John,	x.	29
Greene, Mr. Chas. E.,	xi.	27	O'Hare, Mr. Peter,	v.	1
Guildfoyle, Mr. J. J.,	lv.	161	O'Neill, Mr. Arthur,	xli.	129
			O'Neill, Mr. J. J.,	li.	155
Halpin, Rev. J., &c.,	lxvii.	202	O'Neill, Mr. T. J.,	xxv.	75
Hartmann, Mr. W. J.,	xxxi.	99	O'Reilly, Mr. Thomas,	xli.	130
Harkin, Mr. John,	xli.	127	O'Reilly, Rev. Patrick, &c.,	xli.	131
Harrington, Mr. W. S.,	lxix.	204			
Hogan, Mr. Patrick J.,	lxviii.	200	Piget, Mr. J. L.,	lxix.	225
Howe, Mr. Richard,	xliii.	142			
			Quinn, Mr. Francis,	xxxi.	99
Keane, Mr. Patrick,	lxix.	215	Quinn, Very Rev. Canon, &c.,	viii.	14
Keenan, Mr. John,	xliii.	143			
Kelly, Rev. J. J., &c.,	li.	154	Rafferty, Mr. Michael,	xxiv.	106
Kerr, Rev. Montemario,	xviii.	52			
Kiwan, Mr. Patrick,	lv.	151	Spicer, Mr. James,	xxv.	31
			Stack, Rev. T. L. F., &c., &c.,	xxvii.	92
Lavery, Rev. F., &c.,	xvi.	49	Stanley, Mr. James,	lv.	153
Lauper, Mr. William, &c.,	xxviii.	101			
Lawson, Mr. John,	ix.	20	Trall, Mr. William, &c., &c.,	xxxi.	71
Lowry, Rev. Andrew, &c.,	vi.	5	Trease, Mr. Patrick,	xxvi.	82
Lynd, Mr. Patrick,	xxvi.	112			
			Williams, Mr. Williams,	xix.	61
Maguire, Rev. J. J., &c.,	lxix.	218	Woodside, Mr. Robert, &c.,	xvii.	53
Mallon, Rev. P. E., &c.,	xliii.	148			
Malone, Mr. John,	lxix.	215			
M'Alceman, Mr. John,	xliii.	35			

DIGEST OF EVIDENCE.

O'HARE, Mr. P.

See pp. 1-5.

CONGESTION IN DISTRICT OF NEWRY.

Portions of estates of Marquis of Downshire, Earl Annesley, Mr. Bagg and others in Parishes of Clonallen, Newry, Killebony, Drumgath and Clondriff should be dealt with as congested; evictions had occurred on these estates because of impossible rents, 34097.—These were judicial tenants, and Commissioners had fixed rents, 34092.3.—This was in rural districts of Clonallen; people had reclaimed land without assistance from landlords, and as soon as improvements were made rents were raised, even though money for improvements had been made in America, England, or Scotland, 34015.—This was prior to the Act of 1881, 34015.—In Clonallen division many of the holdings were very small, 34020.—In Carrig average valuation was 24 16s., in Byrne 24 15s., in Leiskin 24 12s., in Tammaharry 22 15s., enclosing mountain land, 34021.—In Ballyvaughan average valuation was 23 1s.; half of townland sold twelve years ago at thirteen years' purchase; now landlord was asking twenty-eight years' purchase for other portion, 34022.—People were very industrious, earning money in England and America, 34023.—Land was largely reclaimed land, and people could not live on holdings if they did not receive money from America, England, or Scotland, 34024-30.—No grass lands were available for enlargement of holdings, 34032.—Valuation would almost coincide with present rent, 34033.—In witness's own case rent for ten acres was £10; in the sixties it was raised to £25; since Act of 1881 he had got two reductions, which brought it down to £2, 34034.—And his valuation was £10 on land, 34035.—Or total valuation 249 10s., 34036.—In 1864 witness had applied for lease to build mill on Marquis of Downshire's land; agent had given permission, but before it was built Marquis of Downshire died; agents were changed, and, instead of lease and reduction of rent, witness got a rise of £8 a year, 34037.—Upper Clonallen and Warrenpoint Rural had very low valuation, although not mentioned in Poor Law valuation as under thirty shillings per head, as they had not been given by electoral divisions, 34038-41.—In electoral division of Upper Clonallen number of holdings under £30 valuation was very large, 34042-4.—In Warrenpoint Rural there were not so many, 34045.—In Upper Clonallen before 1803 all estates sold for from sixteen to ten or twelve years' purchase; since 1803 some land had sold from twenty-one to twenty-four years' purchase; tenants had agreed to this to ward off present difficulties, 34046.—If congestion was to be relieved, there should be migration to other districts, 34049-52.—In this district one-fourth of all holdings were under £4, and three-fourths under £10, 34050.—There was very little prospect of improving the land, 34070.—Three-fourths of land was in tillage, and had to be continually tilled; if left in grass moss would rise after three years, 34086-92.—Witness had not been in Mayo or Donegal, though he had been in Kerry; land in Clonallen, Clondriff, and Drumgath was as bad as in Donegal or Mayo, 34093-4.—Economic holding could not be worked without a horse, 34096-8.—If railway were constructed from Newry to Castleward and industries were started congestion would be mitigated, 34099-5002.

INDUSTRY.

Woolen manufactures should be started, 34021, 34073.—And a railway made from Newry to Castleward, which would enable produce to be brought to markets, 34021.—There were large mountain tracts in neighbourhood for production of sheep for wool, 34024.—No one in district had sufficient capital to start it, 34025-6.—Public money would have to be used by Congested Districts Board or some other body to start the industry, 34050-60.—Though there were grave difficulties and objections to such a practice, as State would be competing with private enterprise, 34061.—In this neighbourhood there was no competition with private trader, 34062.—If public good was

O'HARE, Mr. P.—continued.

served by State-aided competition nobody ought to object, 34065-6.—Nothing should be started without having prospect of succeeding, 34068.—There should be careful investigation before public money was expended, 34079-80.—Inquiry should be made by Congested Districts Board about Hilltown and Clonallen divisions, 34081.—But industry should only be started if there were a reasonable prospect of its thriving, 34082-3.

MIGRATION.

If industries were not developed only alternative was migration, 34071.—Plan would be for four or six industrious young men, with their families, to migrate to same district in Meath or Westmeath; land which they left would be available for relieving congestion in neighbourhood, 34073-6, 35003-4.—There was splendid pasture land in Meath, 35006.—It ought to be good tillage land, 35006-7.—It had been suggested that it was better soil for grazing than for tillage, as it was heavy and hard to till, but that would probably only be difficulty for a year or two, 35008, 35011.—Farmers of districts would not have any objection to migrating in batches; they would not go individually, 35013-5.

TILLAGE.

Three-fourths to four-fifths of farms in County Down could be under tillage, 35018.—Rotation of crops was potatoes, oats and hay, 35019-35026.—Land was in pasture for three years, but had to be ploughed after that, as it would be overgrown with moss, 35019.—First of three years would be upland hay, and other two years pasture, 35020.—When ploughed, oats would go in, 35022.—On small farms flax was sometimes grown; then rotation was oats, flax, potatoes, oats, hay and pasture for two years making seven years' rotation, while other was six, 35023-5.—Flax had ceased to a great extent, but more had been sown than year than for ten years, 35025.—No land in County Down was permanently under grass, 35027.—On average farm of twenty acres, stock would be four milch cows, three to eight young stock, and a horse, 35028.—Grazing would have to be supplemented with oats and hay, 35029.—Some turnips were sown in poorer electoral divisions, 35030-1.

CATTLE.

Large proportion of stock was sold to England and Scotland as yearlings; they were taken direct from port of Newry, 35033-4.—Greater proportion of cattle exported were two-year-olds; farmers from Meath bought yearlings to bring up, 35035.—Small holders could not live if there were no grazing farms in Ireland, 35040.—As average small holder could not keep stock on his farm much over a year old, 35041-35048.—England and Scotland were the chief markets, 35043.—Large farmers did not export yearlings, 35045.—If all large grazing farms were cut up, small holders would suffer, 35046.—As poverty compelled them to sell their yearlings, 35049-50.—Even if they were better off, it would be a national calamity to (a) away with grazing farms, 35051.—If large numbers were migrated from district, and remaining holdings were enlarged, they could keep more stock, and keep them longer, 35053-4.—Graziers were really middlemen, taking middlemen's profits, so that it would be an advantage for them to disappear, 35055.—Want of capital and insufficient holdings were reasons why farmers could not keep cattle longer, 35056.—The larger the farm the longer the stock may be kept, unless farms are mountainous, 35056.—On good land large farmers finish their stock, 35057-8.—Fifty-acre and thirty-acre farmers could do it on good land by horse-feeding, 35058-71.

FISHERMEN AND FISHERIES.

Some people in Newry district went to sea for a season, and were called fishermen; they fished while crops were in the ground, 35061.—They fished three months of the year and farmed nine months, 35063.—The fishermen were also away three or four months, going to America or England, 35064.

LOWRY, REV. ANDREW.

See pp. 5-12.

CONGESTION.

Downshire, Batt, and Annesley Estates should all come within terms of reference of the Commission; prior to 1879 farmers along Mourne Mountains were very poor, and had to get charitable relief; in 1882 quite half of tenants were deeply in arrears; when Arrears Act was passed, sitting for administration was procured at Hilltown; a Mr. Burchell, of Killybegs, presided, and took over a week to get through evidence; land agents opposed claims, but were forced to withdraw, and all arrears were blotted out; now they were unable to meet liabilities owing to the low price of agricultural produce, 35074.—Various references to were Newry, Killybegs, and Banbridge, 35075.—There was difficulty in getting benefit of Arrears Act for all, as payment of November gale of 1881 was a consideration of taking advantage of the Act, and they had difficulty in getting money; Marquis of Downshire's agent forgave the year's rent to many so that they might take advantage of Act, and landlord might get two years' rent, 35076.—Amount advanced under Act was £750,000, 35081.—These tenants of hill holdings who had relinquished their lands while better land was occupied by English and Scotch settlers were now in nearly as bad a condition as they were when they got relief under Arrears Act, as they got only small relief under Land Court, 35082-5.—Only about 10 per cent. of the rent was met by external sources; sometimes father, sometimes sons, went away to earn money to pay rent and other expenses, 35087-91.—The general indebtedness was due to hard times, competition from abroad, and low prices of agricultural produce, 35092.—Shop debts were high, 35093.—Land agents had opposed application of Arrears Act, they had written to the people three days before Act came into force, saying that gale due in November, 1881, would have to be paid; in those three days £100 to £150 were collected and lodged in Rathfriland Bank in order that tenants might qualify for advantages of Act, 35095-7.—Act was then advantage to landlord than to tenant, as he got two years' rent paid over to him, 35099.—Indebtedness to shopkeepers was an obstacle to fresh start after application of Arrears Act, 35100-2.—Hilltown Estate, part of Killybegs, and part of Mayobridge were congested, but not scheduled; average valuation was £4 to £6, and size of holdings five to ten acres, 35103-11.—Even if farmers got their holdings for nothing, it would be impossible to earn a living out of them without external means, 35114-6.—Large agricultural holdings should not be first taken for relief of congestion, but large grazing farms, as tillage farms gave employment to more people, 35167-72.—Both parties in the State were agreed that congestion must be put an end to, 35206.—So Parliament must not shrink from obtaining means necessary to give effect to its policy, 35207.—In Hilltown Estate if portion of demesne were acquired for enlargement of holdings congestion would be relieved, though not got rid of, 35208-10.—Considerations why relief should be given in South Down were—(1) many of the poor people got relief under Leeds Relief Bill; (2) majority of tenants were under £10 valuation; (3) rent was not made out of land, but by sons and daughters of farmers in other lands; (4) railway facilities were needed; (5) evictions had been carried out for non-payment of impossible rents; (6) in famine years, 1847-8, relief had to be administered in district distress was so great; (7) both Nationalist Unions of Newry and Downpatrick and Unionist Banbridge Unions were agreed that Commission should sit at Castlewellan to hear reasons for scheduling large portions of district; Sir Antony MacDonnell's statement that help would be forthcoming had filled the people with hope, 35211.

MIGRATION.

As people could not get back lands of which they were formerly dispossessed, because they were now the property of others, they would have to leave their own county, 35217-8.—There were no grazing farms, all were agricultural, 35219-21.—It would be better to migrate the small farmers of Down to Meath, 35223-5.—Migration to Meath was a very far-fetched remedy,

LOWRY, REV. ANDREW—continued.

35162.—Improvement of agriculture and development of industries in their own neighbourhood would make small men much more comfortable than migration, 35163-6.

UNECONOMIC HOLDINGS.

Land could not be taken compulsorily from farmers on lower lands to improve holdings on upper lands, 35127-8.—Good purchase terms would render them more economic, and water power of the Bann would provide employment, 35129.—About 300 to 400 holdings had average valuation of £4 to £8, and they ought to have reduced annuities, for even small reduction was great consideration to very poor people, 35121-5.—Security of tenure under system of purchasing ownership would give impetus to emigration, 35126-7.—Even small reduction might make some of the boys and girls stay at home, 35126-9.—Instructors had been sent down from Mr. Plunkett's Department, but they did not reach the people, though they were open to improvement by up-to-date and scientific methods of treatment, 35141-2.—People were intelligent and willing to learn, 35143-4.—People referred to were those whose holdings were partly economic and partly uneconomic; reduction in rent was worth seeking, and ownership induced improvements, 35174-7.—The budget for the year was so small that even that reduction of even 10s. made impression on it, and reduction from £5 to £2 10s. would be a considerable advantage, 35178-82.

INDUSTRIES.

Congested Districts Board should encourage industries, both by supporting present industries and starting or reviving others, 35146-7.—Now the people had to go to other countries to earn money, 35160-1.—And it was doubtful how long these external industries would continue, 35173.—Flax had formerly been the great staple industry of the North, but for many years it had ceased to be beneficial to the farmers; Belfast linen merchants were only giving 5s. 6d. and 5s. 6d. per stone, as against 10s. to 12s. in former times; they were importing Belgian flax and paying 12s. a stone for it; this depreciation had locally affected both large and small farmers; granite quarry of Rathfriland could be made a thriving industry; stone for Albert Memorial in London had been taken from that quarry; if Messrs. McGee and Co., owners and managers, had polishing machinery and steam crane and tramway to port or railway, they could compete with Scotch and English quarries; railway tariff was prohibitive; some time before work had been stopped in this quarry and a large number of young tradesmen had to emigrate; they would return if the industry got a fair chance; stone was first-class, and only needed facilities in transit and up-to-date machinery to make it successful; there was iron ore industry in Deansboro Mount, a few miles from Castlewellan; thirty years ago it had been examined by experts, who pronounced it to be excellent ore; friendly Government could develop it, 35211.—Irish granite had to compete with granite from Aberdeen, Sweden, and Russia; therefore it was very necessary that some public body should give it encouragement, that transit facilities should be increased, and that expert advice and assistance should be available, 35212-20.—Good livelihood could be made out of quarries if transit were improved; at present Scotch quarries could send to Dublin cheaper, 35222.—New Cathedral in Newry was being built of native granite, 35223.—Native workmen were dressing the stone, 35224.—Orders in hand could not be supplied for want of machinery; 200 or 300 men might be employed if they had polishing machinery, 35225.

COMPULSION AND ABOLITION OF RENTS.

Great need was for reduction between annuity and rent of small holders, 35148.—Rents should be done away with, 35149.—And compulsory clause should be inserted in Act, 35150.—Under some there could be no inspection which was bad for tenants, 35251.—If loss resulted from carrying out compulsory policy, State ought to bear it, as State had been cause of misfortunes of the people in days gone by, 35152-4.—Mr. Baller had said that land for which 24s. year's purchase was now asked was worth 14s. year's purchase, and better land had sold under Ashbourne Act for under 15 years' purchase, and witness agreed

LOWRY, REV. ANDREW—continued.

with Mr. Balfour's valuation, 35155-7.—If landlords' and tenants' valuations were different, and compulsion were applied, compromise would have to be arrived at, as it would work both ways, 35158-9.—Improvement in condition of people on unenclosed holdings could be brought about by abolition of some system and establishment of inspection and compulsion, letting people become sole owners at just and fair price, and establishment of industries by Congested Districts Board, 35168.

FLotation OF LAND STOCK.

So far instalments had been paid punctually in County Down, and no money had been stopped from local grants owing to losses on flotation of stock, 35186.—As local authority was ultimately the security for payment of instalments, they should have a voice in connection with sale or purchase, 35185.—If Lord Downshire's estate, on which there was rental of £80,000, were sold at twenty years' purchase price would be £1,600,000, less cost of flotation of stock would be £270,500; if local authority of County Down made itself responsible for that loss it would be a calamity, 35186-7.—Same might apply to other estates, so very serious state of affairs was created; people should be much more careful than they were as to bargains that they made, but they cared for nothing but present relief, 35189-90.—Shopkeepers and professional men of Ireland were as responsible for repayments as farmers; all classes concerned should have voice in negotiations, 35191-3.

Lord Annan's Estates.

Parish of Letterin was under Lord Annan's, and only good land on estate he took from tenants and added to his immense demesne; tenants had to pay high rent for poor land; general belief was that other landlords had agreed to wait and see how Downshire sale would end, so that they might demand same price, 35193.—About thirty-one tenants had been displaced in 1870 in order to add their land to demesne, 35195.—Area of demesne was probably as extensive as area of twelve townlands outside it, 35196.—Portion of it was in timber and portion was used for grazing, 35197.—None of it was let as accommodation land to local tenants; part of a road had formerly been opened for convenience of tenants going to market, but that was now closed, and tenants had to go two or three miles round, 35199.—There was large area of congestion contiguous to this huge demesne, largely owing to consolidation of holdings in 1870, 35200-2.—Portion taken in 1870 might be used for improvement of holdings in neighbourhood, 35205.

PURCHASE OF ESTATES.

Sale of Downshire Hilltown Estate was being negotiated; purchase price demanded by Lord Arthur Hill and his agent was 24½ years' purchase, plus bonus; tenants had sent memorial to Estates Commissioners stating that they were unable to pay such a price, 35193-4.—Lord Arthur Hill's policy was to separate poorer portion of estate from richer and to make it a separate estate in order to get the bonus, 35195-7.—Former portion, who did not agree to terms, were afraid of being included, 35198.—Under Ashbourne Act six estates had been sold in district; one at thirteen years' purchase, others at fifteen; none more than sixteen; estate sold at thirteen years' purchase comprised better land than that for which 24½ was now asked, 35195.—It was evident that prices would be fixed too high, as parties were receiving and paying away somebody else's money for the moment; in interest of all concerned, a third impartial opinion should be taken before advance was made; under existing circumstances Estates Commissioners and Congested Districts Board could only question in limited number of cases, though, as Clifton sale had proved, some rents were not worth half the lowest zone price; Irish rate-payers who were responsible for payments, if purchasing tenants failed to pay instalments, were not allowed any voice in transaction, 35211.

TURBARY.

Bogs in this district were now almost exhausted, and this caused great loss and inconvenience, 35211.

LOWRY, REV. ANDREW—continued.

CANADIAN CATTLE.

If restrictions on importation of Canadian cattle were removed in near future it would be another cause of serious loss to tenant-farmers, already handicapped by competition from other countries, 35211.

EMIGRATION.

Emigration was not peculiar to Ireland, but it was only country in the world whose population was declining through emigration; in other countries surplus population was emigrating; even in Ulster emigration was as great as in South and West, 35225-30.

M'KENNA, REV. REV. EUGENE CANON.

See pp. 12-13.

VALUATION AND RENTS OF COUNTY MONAGHAN.

Farms of County Monaghan were extremely highly rented, even after two judicial reductions; it was highest rented county in Ireland; reason was that valuation began in 1848, and Castletown, Newry, and Armagh Unions were last three finished in 1864 and 1865; prices of farm produce had gone up in intervening years, because of Crimean and American Civil Wars; agricultural valuation on Monaghan was £1 3s. 4d. per Irish acre; in Kildare £1 2s.; one result was that rents were very high; in one case rent of five Irish acres was 25 7s. 1d. in 1864; in 1862 it was 27 12s. 11d.; in 1867 £11 18s. 8d.; now it was 23 13s.; there were eleven townlands in witness' parish, average height being 700 to 800 feet above sea-level, with cold climate, in which nothing progressed from middle of October to April; land rated at £1 an acre was only worth 19s., 35235-7.—Rent of one townland ninety years ago was 200 guineas; now, after second judicial lease, it was 212s., a reduction of 40 per cent. on highest rent; about beginning of last century district was a good one for flax-growing, when ground was well cultivated; while that continued rents were increased, and never lowered after; in eleven townlands mentioned, comprising 35,000 acres, there were about 250 families; even second term rents were high; an evicted tenant named Duffy had been reinstated, but had never been able to make rent out of his holding, 35238.—Valuation was no rent, as it was far too high; district would require special treatment by Congested Districts Board, or some other body, 35240.

INDUSTRIES.

Formerly there was a great deal of spinning, weaving, bleaching, and corn milling for wheat, 35240.—In 1876 corn-growing and milling were at lowest ebb, 35242.

TURBARY.

Loss of turbary had cleared out a great many people; in one case tenant had bog when rent was 22 15s., but when rent was raised to 24 10s. 6d. was taken away and he was charged 1s. a perch, afterwards being raised to 1s. 3d., and then 2s., 35243.—In case of 60 per cent. of people turf was exhausted, 35244.—For fuel they either cut rods or went a distance and paid 4d. 6d. a perch to people who had a few acres of bog, 35245.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE AND ABOLITION OF ZOYER.

There should be compulsory purchase at a fair price, not on high second term rents; bonus for poor land should be abolished, if not people would not be able to pay annuities; want of security was great obstacle to increased energy; for if a man failed to pay his rent all his property in the land was gone; witness gave examples to prove necessity for compulsory sale and inspection; at a certain sale, seven years before, inspector from Land Commission had refused to sanction price of some holdings, as they were uneconomic; afterwards agent had tried to coerce tenants into paying difference to landlords, which was illegal; one great benefit of sale was confidence and encouragement given by proprietorship; a man from Scotland purchased about one and a half acres of land which had been bog and built a good house on it. After a while he returned to Scotland,

M'KENNA, VERY REV. CANON—continued.

and house sold for £50; judicial lease had been 18s. but landlord raised it to £1, and charged lease from present to future tenancy; case was taken to court, and judge made him present tenant at rent of £1; in another case same landlord wanted to change second-term judicial lease to first term lease, to increase purchase price; to save the people from such things compulsory purchase at a fair price was the only remedy, 35245.

FUTURE TENANCIES.

System of future tenancies was very objectionable; out of about 500 farmers in the parish 92 had purchased under Ashbourne-Balfour Acts, and 60 or 70, or more, were future tenants; most of these were in a terrible condition, as rack-rents of thirty years ago were perpetuated, and people could not get judicial leases; rent was paid by sons or daughters in America or elsewhere, 35245.

HIGH PURCHASE PRICES.

High purchase prices were caused by disproportion between supply and demand; few farms came into the market, and high prices were offered for those by people who had been out of Ireland but wished to spend their last days there; so they offered prices which farmers could not give; in one case farm was sold for £150 when buildings on it were worth £300; landlord claimed £35 or £40 because he had given timber and slates; £100 was all the tenant got; in another case young man had bought farm of ten acres for £145; rent was 59 5s.; purchase money would not pay for house and tenes or unexhausted manure; it was a fallacy to suppose that high prices for farms was proof that land was valuable in Ireland, 35245.

M'VOY, MR. JOHN.

See pp. 13-14.

AGRICULTURAL SCHEME OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Scheme was working well through County Down, but poorest districts did not benefit, as people were too poor to purchase live stock; poor districts should be scheduled under Congested Districts Board, who might help with cattle-breeding stock, 35247.—Agricultural Department had now entire charge of all agricultural work, 35253-4.—Agricultural scheme in County Down gave assistance to Shown, assisted with cattle breeding, gave prizes for growing flax, best kept cottagers, and best kept small farms, 35252.—There were no scheduled areas in County Down, so each electoral division contributed to agricultural rate, 35253-4.—Scheme had been prepared by Department of Agriculture to bring good to greatest number, but very poor could only benefit by local schemes, as they were too poor to benefit by others, 35255-7.—Premium boards were doing a great deal of good through the country, 35258.—As a rule cattle in Newry district were not finished there, but were either shipped to England or sold to large graziers from Monaghan or Westmeath at a year or a year and a half old, 35255.

ROADS.

Good roads leading to markets would be great help; District Council was unable to entertain applications because of want of funds, 35262.

TILLAGES.

Witness did not agree with statement that three-fourths or more of farms land in County Down was under tillage, 35262, 35266-7.

QUIN, VERY REV. CANON.

See pp. 14-27.

CONGESTION.

South Armagh was as congested as any place in Ireland except the Barons of Donegal, parts of Leitrim, Mayo, Galway, and Kerry, and should receive benefits of Congested Districts Board; in Carrilough

QUIN, VERY REV. CANON—continued.

tenants had bought out under different Acts, 35270.—Average valuation of holdings in South Armagh was less than £4; most were from £4 down to £1; mountain regions were all congested; Lower Fews was not congested; even if people got land in congested portions for nothing they could not make living out of it, 35273.—South Armagh should be scheduled as congested, 35274-35275.—Witness considered that Commission, as important as Besborough Commission before Act of 1881, and hoped it would have far-reaching results, 35275.—Congested Districts Board would be more serviceable and profitable to South Armagh than Estates Commissioners, 35277.

LAND PURCHASE.

Witness had negotiated for nearly 3,000 tenants directly with landlords and agents; recently Captain Alexander's estate at Fethlic had been purchased; there were 693 holdings; 589 of these were rented under £4, and down to £2 and £1; 113 holdings ranged from £4 to £10; about twenty were above £10; Johnson Estate, alongside had 250 holdings; of these 207 were under £4, forty-three between £4 and £10, and two above £10; on Littledale estate, out of sixty-seven holdings, fifty-nine were under £4, and eight between £4 and £10, 35271.—All these were sold; but Richardson's estate, close to Besbrook, though sold, was not yet signed; average was much the same; on some estates near Crossmaglen average would be less, 35272.—Prices had gone up very much under Act of 1903; about six or seven years ago witness had negotiated purchase of Rev. Mr. Glenn's estate at Warrenpoint; seventeen years' purchase was given on second-term rents; Mrs. Quinn's estate was purchased at same rate, 35305.—Alexander's Estate was purchased, after two years' negotiations, under Act of 1903, at 24½ years' purchase; Lomagan sold at 24½ years' purchase, Mr. Richardson's at 24½ years' purchase on first term rents; Mr. Littledale's sold at 23 years' purchase; bonus in addition to all these; for good land 24½ years' purchase was equitable, but extravagant for congested land; good lands had sold, and landlords were holding out for high prices on bad lands; if congested districts were not dealt with soon there would be greater row than in 1881; witness suggested no bonus on sales of 24½ years' purchase, but on 18 years' purchase there should be a bonus of about 20 per cent.; 22 years' purchase should receive 14 or 15 per cent.; if this was done, congested areas would soon be sold, 35312.—Bad lands always had small holdings, 35313.—So bonus should be regulated in inverse ratio to quality of land, 35317.—Congested areas should be treated specially favourably, instead of being blocked, as they were, owing to landlords asking extravagant prices; Mr. Sprague, of Sperrin, County Tyrone, was offering his estate at 27½ years' purchase, reserving the shooting; witness had bought best land from him at 24½ years' purchase, 35318.—Landlord should not lose, and tenant should not lose; State should make up deficiency, 35319-21.—The lower the price, the higher the bonus ought to be, 35322-3.—In sales in his district witness had found tenants, generally speaking, reasonable, but landlords were not; as an example, Colonel Hutchison P.O., of County Tyrone, was asking 24½ years' purchase for a bogland estate nine miles from a railway, although the Hope Estate adjoining, the largest in the county, had been sold at seventeen years' purchase; he was finally offered 24½ years' purchase, but refused it; other landlords also refused to sell, and end would be a fight between landlords and tenants; Mr. Boyd, agent from Letterkenny, objected to Estates Commissioners fixing rent, as they represented State, which advanced the money; tribunal ought quickly to be appointed for settlement of the question; once the land question was settled all other things would follow, 35323-4.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD AND ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

It was disadvantage to have two Boards doing same class of work in same county, 35370.—If new Bill passed Congested Districts Board would have new powers, which they ought to have, as they had done good work, 35370.—Witness would advocate handing over South Armagh to Board, 35380.—Both

QUIN, Very Rev. Canon—continued.

bodies should co-operate in working for the good of Ireland, 35331.—Board should be confined to area where there was congestion; Commissioners should keep to non-congested areas, 35332.—Estates Commissioners had many functions besides the relief of congestion, 35335.

MIGRATION—INDUSTRIES.

Large grazing farms of Louth and Meath might be cut up for purposes of migration; but people of those districts might well object that they had plenty of poor people who had been evicted in 1847 and later, who had the first claim on those lands; witness maintained that there was no need for migration if industries were established and encouraged, 35337.

—In Beeston there was a mill that employed 3,600 girls—only very few men were employed as mechanics; about 1874 Beeston quarries were in working order and paying out £1,000 a week; Mr. Richardson had let the quarries to a man named Sturgeon for ten years, at £300 a year; they had never been worked since; they could now be re-opened, as lease was up, and they were back in Mr. Richardson's hands, 35337.—Mr. Sturgeon had leased quarries with object of preventing competition against his own quarries in Newry, 35338-39.—In Louth district there was a good quarry—if developed it would give employment to 250 or 300 hands; stone was excellent for setts, as it was very hard, and, if properly worked, it would give employment in neighbourhood, and prevent necessity for migration, 35339.—There were skilled workers belonging to neighbourhood; all that was wanted was capital, 35340-305.—Bonus on output for the year would be a good way of encouraging the quarries, 35340.—Shut-making had been established in Mullaghawa, and Father Johnston had undertaken to work it out; he had also been established in Dundalk, but had failed; Mullaghawa industry was now giving employment to eighty or a hundred girls, earning from eight to ten shillings a week; in Greenanagh a crochet and other needlework industry had been started by Very Rev. Canon McGeehy, and that employed from one hundred to two hundred; if these and similar industries were developed they would be more comfortable at home than if they migrated to Meath or Louth, 35340.

MQUILL, Mr. JAMES.

See p. 16.

CONGESTION.

District south of Newry was congested; in Forkhill Electoral Division average valuation of townland of Carrigan was £2 8s., and of Cloghacra £3 12s.; in Jonesboro' division average valuation of Carrickbrack was £5 13s., of Droonetta £4 2s.; in Killybeg division Townshaven had £3 13s., and Bellinias £4 7s., and in Lathbert division Lathbert townland was £2 18s., and Maphoneer £2 12s., and Tullmacra £4 1s.; land for migration was wanted to relieve congestion in these places, 35339.—In these districts there were no areas which could be taken for enlargement of holdings, 35339-4.—And four electoral districts of Forkhill, Killybeg, Jonesboro' and Lathbert should be scheduled, as in Forkhill 88 per cent. of the holdings were under £10 valuation, in Jonesboro' 86 per cent., and in Killybeg 81 per cent., 35339-3.—In Lathbert nearly 90 per cent. of holdings were under £10 valuation; these districts should be scheduled in order to have unnecessary holdings attended to, 35334-5.

DRAINAGE.

Arterial drainage would make more land available, as there was much wet lowland, 35339-30.

VALUATION.

Holdings with average valuation of £3 8s. to £4 1s. would yield per head valuation of from 14s. to 15s., 35338.—Dividing valuation by population would get about 30s. per head valuation, 35339.

BELL, Mr. W. H.

See pp. 18-19.

CONGESTION.

Southern portion of County Armagh was poorest part of county, Jonesboro, Killybeg, Forkhill, Lathbert; county schemes worked well in better portions of county, but in poorer portions premium bulls had not been taken up at all, and these areas were scheduled; assistance might be obtained, 35340.—As Department would have supplemental schemes for them, 35343.—In electoral divisions of Jonesboro' and Killybeg area was 13,552 acres, including 3,000 acres of mountain, and population was 4,482; in other districts population was as dense, 35340.

CATTLE BREEDING, ETC.

In poorer parts bulls could not be obtained; finally Department lent £20 for purchase of a bull, about three years ago, and it had done much good, 35342.—Witness handed in maps showing portions of district without premium bulls, as people were too poor to buy them; also reports of working of schemes, 35343-4.—Boards of Guardians had purchased good bulls, and were in that way improving breed of pigs, 35344.—Horse-breeding had suffered badly, as until this year Department had refused to subsidise half-bred hunter sires; they had now, however, agreed to do it, 35344.

ITINERANT INSTRUCTORS AND EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS.

Itinerant instructors were doing much good in district; they stayed about three weeks in one place, and young and middle-aged farmers attended and received valuable instruction; experimental plots had so far not been a great success; a better plan would be to have several months' continuous instruction; but it took twelve months to get round county, 35345-46.

INDUSTRIES.

Mullaghawa Shirt Factory had been assisted by County Committee; salaries of two instructors from Manchester had been paid by them, 35345.—Poultry-breeding had greatly improved; local shows gave prizes to encourage the people to improve stock, 35347.—Egg stations had been a success, 35350.—Scheme was similar to that carried out by Congested Districts Board in West of Ireland, 35351.—New blood had to be constantly introduced, or breed of poultry would not improve, 35353-5.—Flax-growing had been revived in southern portion of county; County Committee offered prizes for flax, and there were 180 entries last year, 35353.—New industries should only be subsidised for a time, they should then succeed on their own merits, 35370.—Mullaghawa Shirt Factory had been subsidised by Armagh County Committee until it was well started, 35371-2.

LENNON, Mr. JOHN.

See p. 20.

MEANS OF TRANSPORT.

Road-making should be encouraged, and railway should be constructed from Newry to Castledown, via Mayobridge and Hilltown, 35377.

LAND PURCHASE.

Witness knew estate which was sold before Act of 1903 at fifteen years' purchase; another estate was offered since Act of 1903, and landlord wanted 2½ years'; farmers desired to become owners at fair price; there should be inspection in all cases, 35377.

VILLAGE ON WITNESS'S FARM.

Witness farmed about seventy acres, with valuation of £41, 35375.—Witness tilled all his farm except four or five acres, 35379.—Good deal of land was reclaimed, and rotation of crops was observed; cattle were stall-fed on a small scale, but that was not general practice in neighbourhood, 35381-60.—Stock carried was about five milk cows, four two-year-olds, five or six year-olds, and three horses, 35392.—Witness bred his own two-year-olds, and kept them beyond that if he did not need money, 35395-8.—There was enough manure made, with the addition of artificial manure, 35399-400.

LENNON, Mr. JOHN—continued.

COMPULSION.

Compulsion should be on landlord as to selling price and on tenant at a fair price, 35403-2.—If landlord and tenant disagreed as to value, Inspector, or some tribunal, would have to settle price, 35403-4.

O'HARE, Mr. JOHN.

See pp. 30-2.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Lectures held under auspices of Department had been, as a rule, failures, as they were not attended by the people whom they were meant to benefit; the instruction was too technical and impractical, and only young boys came to amuse themselves, though in a limited way some spirit of inquiry had been roused among some farmers, 35405.—Witham's quarrel with the system, not with instruction, 35406.—He did not agree with Mr. Ball's evidence that lectures had done much good, 35411-14.—Lectures might be made useful if properly conducted, 35415.—Theory should be largely supplemented by practical demonstrations, 35418-23.

CONGESTION.

District should be scheduled as congested, as roads were bad, peat was scarce, and there were no industries; even granite quarries had ceased to give employment to large numbers of workers; rates were high; Department of Agriculture required one penny in the pound, which was spent on unsuccessful instruction, but could be much better spent by Congested Districts Board on development of industries, 35423.—Holdings were mostly small, and nearly all the farmers had sons and daughters in America; Curragh townland had area of 570 acres, valuation £376 10s., average about £4 70; Burren had area of 740 acres, valuation £406, average £1 50 per head; Carrickmacrory, area 515 acres, valuation £299 1s., average £6 30, 35431.—These conditions were reproduced in other townlands; Turmonbarry was even worse, as valuation was only £2 15, 35433.—Whole of Warrenpoint Rural was not so bad as that, but many townlands were quite as bad, 35436-39.

INDUSTRIES.

If Congested Districts Board took charge of district, industries should be started, 35435.—Instruction in such industries as lacework, machine-knitting and "homespuns" should be given; encouragement should be given to brick-making, as clay seemed good; waste portions should be planted with trees, as that would add warmth to district, and there would be value of timber, 35440-4.

AGRICULTURAL TEACHING IN NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

In 1900 teaching of agriculture was taken out of National Schools and handed over to Department, but it would be much greater advantage for it to be taught in Primary Schools, 35436-7.—School gardens should be attached to schools, 35438.—Or boys should have opportunity of studying on lands of practical farmers, 35439-41.

EMIGRATION.

Over one-third of grown-up people had gone away to England, Scotland, or America to earn their living; some came back, but the majority did not, 35432-4.

LAND PURCHASE.

Recently negotiations for sales had been going on in district, but landlords and tenants had been unable to come to terms, 35440.

COMPULSION.

It would be fair to compel landlords to sell at reasonable rates; best land should sell at twenty-four or twenty-five years' purchase, but poor land at much less; if bad land were not reduced, surrogates could not be paid, and county at large would be responsible, which would be ruinous, 35443-9.

MURPHY, Rev. R. J.

See pp. 33-7.

CONGESTION.

Entire barony of Lower Mourne was congested district under definition of Land Act of 1903; from Newcastle, at one end, to Killybeg river at the other, as two-thirds of all holdings in townlands in Union of Killybeg were of £5 or under, 35450-1.—Electoral divisions were Mullinstown and Ballysheel, 35452.—Total number of holdings was 1,331, of which 1,018 were rated at £5 and under, 35453.—In townland of Magheragh there were seventy-nine holdings, thirty-eight under £5 and forty-one over, 35454.—In Upper Mourne, from Killybeg to Causeway Water, bordering Killybeg, down to Greenacree, there were forty townlands, and all were congested, but not to same extent as Lower Mourne, 35455-9.—Causeway Water was four miles outside Rowrevor, 35460.—In Upper Mourne holdings totalled 1,597, including mountain and lowland, 594 were £5 and under, 35463.—In mountain district there were 506 holdings, 337 were from £5 down, 35464.—In Lower Mourne there were not forty holdings over £10, only fourteen over £30, 35465.—Most land in both districts was poor, damp, and moory, being all reclaimed, and still requiring draining and liming, 35467.—All reclamation had been done by tenants, whose rent was raised as soon as they improved the land, 35468.—There was no limestone, it was five or six miles away on Little Islands near Greenacree, 35469-70.—There was no unimproved land for enlargement of holdings and people would not migrate, 35475.—If district were scheduled under Congested Districts Board fishermen would be benefited, land would be reclaimed, and industries started, 35476.

DRAINAGE.

Arterial drainage was not required, 35478.—But farm drainage was; people themselves did not do it, because they worked at the stone trade, and it would not pay them to leave that and spend their time in reclaiming the land, 35479-82.—If Congested Districts Board took charge of the work the people of the holdings would help, 35483-6.—If stone trade failed they would have better land if drainage were carried out, 35486-88.—Land was cold and must be drained first and limed afterwards, 35489.—Prize systems might encourage people to drain their own farms, but if it interfered with their other work they would not heed the prizes, 35490.—Grant proportionate to the expense would be much more effective, 35502.—If public body helped in this way, people had sufficient agricultural education to make most of the holdings, 35504-5.—If drainage were carried out, people would have holdings to fall back upon if stone quarrying failed; it was disappearing, as Belfast Waterworks had got power of catchment over large area, 35512.

INDUSTRIES.

In summer men earned eighteen shillings to one pound by working at lachans in the quarries; the soil-workers earned twenty-five shillings a week; some years ago they earned £3 per week, 35499.—Ordinary quarrymen earned fourteen shillings a week, 35499.—Quarries that remained now, after Belfast Waterworks catchment, were surface quarries, hard to get at, and with poorer stone, 35514-6.—They were closed in 1902-3, 35517.—Women were engaged in lettering handkerchiefs in their own homes, earning only two or three shillings a week, working from morning till night, 35519-2.—Granite sets were shipped from Annalong, 35527.—People of Lower Mourne worked in the quarries, 35528.—People of Upper Mourne depended on the mountain sheep, 35529.—Mountain grazing belonged to Lord Killybeg, who let it to some tenants at sixpence per head for sheep, 35530.—County Council helped in cattle-breeding and stock had improved, 35536.

EMIGRATION.

There was marked increase of emigration since 1800-3, 35511.—It was much greater than in closing years of last century, 35520.

FUELS.

Valuable peat moss had been lost to the people by closing of the catchment between Newcastle and Killybeg, thus reducing fuel supply; people had got very little compensation and had now to buy expensive coal, 35521-2.

MURPHY, Rev. R. J.—continued.

LAND PURCHASE.

Most of the small holdings of district had been sold through Estates Commissioners at from twenty-one to twenty-four years' purchase, though final settlement had not yet been made, 35531.—Mountain sold at 25 years' purchase and was put under a Committee of Tenants, 35532-3.—Tenants had not received vesting orders and landlord had not received money, so farmers were peasant proprietors, paying interest on purchase, 35534-5.—Small farmers could not do without mountain to graze sheep, 35535.—Sporting rights on mountain were reserved by landlord, 35537.—Trustees would engage land for the mountains and tenants would pay so much per head for sheep, 35538.—Committee of Trustees had been nominated and sent to Land Commission, 35539.—There had been inspection, as all the tenants had not agreed to buy at the price, twenty-one to twenty-four years' purchase, so estate had to be valued by Estates Commission, 35543-4.—It had not been represented to Commissioners that much of estate was congested, 35547.—They were waiting for their decision regarding the one-fourth minority who did not agree to buy, 35548.—Tenants had had no rights to the mountain, which was let by landlord to a certain man, who sublet it for sheep-grazing at so much per head, 35550-6.—After sale mountain would belong to tenants as a whole, and trustees would represent tenant and landlord; they would decide number of sheep to be allowed and price per head, 35555.—Payment for sheep would pay annuity for whole mountain after purchase, 35555, 35556.—Trustees were to be responsible to Estates Commissioners for payment of annuity on purchase-money, 35555.—There would be a general vesting order to trustees of tenants, 35555.—Tenants would be responsible, through trustees as their agents; if sheep went down trustees had power to resign, 35557-71.—This mountain included whole of Barony of Mourne Mountains, 35572.—If there were surplus after annuity was paid trustees would be bound to refund to tenants, 35573.—As agreement to that effect would have to be made, 35574.—If there were a struggle between trustees and tenants, trustees would have to give in, 35575-8.—Sheep-rearing was probably as lasting an industry as farming, 35579.—Tenants acquired prospective right for grazing on mountain after signing agreement, 35582.—Though definite agreement as to number of sheep to be grazed was not made, 35584.

RECLAMATION OF LAND.

There was no untenanted land for enlargement of holdings, and people would not migrate as they were too much attached to their holdings, but many holdings might be improved if waste land was reclaimed, 35585-93.—Waste land that might be reclaimed was that from the foot of the mountain down to the valley, heather, stone, and moor, but if people had other work to do it would not be worth while trying to reclaim this, 35591-7.

RAILWAYS.

People far from a market town suffer for want of transit facilities; this would be remedied if line were made to Killybeg, or from Mourne to Newry, 35598-9.—There was railway from Newry to Warrenpoint; extension to Rosserave would greatly benefit fisheries also, 35602-3.—Railway had been mapped out, but nothing came of it, 35604-5.

FISHERIES.

Large number of men depended on fishing for a living, while fish in winter and herring in summer; but fisheries were declining, 35606.—Stearns trawling had destroyed the winter fishing, 35608.—Consequently about one hundred fishermen go to Scotch summer fishing, 35609.—Questions had been asked in Parliament about the trawling, 35614-9.—Trawlers fished within three-mile limit, coming at night, and making off quickly, and Fishery Board had not taken steps to prevent it, 35615-8.—Mr. Green, head of Fishery Department, had been told about it; he came to Wreckford to inquire into need for safe ship for boats, and, though he promised help for both, nothing had yet been done, 35620-5, 35623-31.—Annalogue used to be put for these fishermen, but it was now used by coasters taking away stone from congested areas,

MURPHY, Rev. R. J.—continued.

and fishermen could not get in, 35625.—Congested Districts Board could not help with regard to better tackle and boats, only Fishery Department could give assistance of that kind, 35635-6.—Making of ship at Wreckford was most important consideration, £200 was needed, 35638.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Chief good done by Department was improvement of live stock; people were beginning to see that benefits offered by Department were worth considering, 35639-42.

GREENE, Mr. CHARLES E.

See pp. 27-9.

CONGESTION.

In electoral divisions of Castlewellan land was rough, rocky, and mountainous, and population was declining; they should be treated as congested, to enable advances to be made for improvement of dwellings, etc.; of small occupiers under £30 valuation, 40 per cent. of money so advanced should be free gift; remainder should be repayable on easy terms, 35644.

FISHERIES.

Fishermen of Ardglash, Killybeg, Strangford and Portaferry needed help to procure good fishing boats and gear, as profits of fisheries were all being secured by Scotch, Manx, and Arklow boats; coastline from Dandrum to Cleghary should be scheduled in order to give this assistance, 35646.—Quest should even be scheduled as far as Donaghadee, 35649-51.—Mr. H. McGrath, of Portaferry, and Mr. E. McQuaid, of Ardglash, had sent in statements; former was particularly acquainted with fishing requirements, and had done all he could to assist in developing them, but all the money that had been secured from Department since 1899 was £118, for erection of small pier at Portaferry, 35653.—Mr. Green had offered loans under Fishermen's Loans Act, but people had not been able to accept, as security was required, and they could not get it; fishermen complained greatly of depredations of trawlers and inadequate protection; they asked that three-mile limit might be extended to five, 35656-7.—Share system enabled poor men to get boats; security was not required, and boat remained property of public body giving it out; instalments were repayable as fishery progressed, 35658-62.—Scheme of insurance had been started to protect Department against loss of boats, 35665.

IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING.

Improvement of housing accommodation was greatly needed; money could be borrowed from Board of Works, but proposition of what was required should be free gifts, for which there was precedent in Labourers Act, 35668.—Small farmers under £5 valuation needed assistance as much as labourers, 35669-8.—Labourers' cottages were being erected in Downpatrick Rural District, but small farmers should not be neglected, 35671.—In district where holdings were small there was not same opening for labourers' cottages as where holdings were large, 35674.—In small holding districts inducements ought to be given for improvement of houses, 35675.—Prizes were offered to cottagers under County Scheme, but not to small occupiers, 35677.—Labourers Act was one of most beneficial Acts ever passed, 35679.—Corresponding advantages should be extended to small farmer class, 35680.—Subsidy would be better than prize scheme, 35681-2.

VALUATION AND POPULATION.

Schedules showing decrease in population since 1881, and valuation of electoral divisions of Castlewellan, Dunsurry, Roscomber, and Seaford, 35685.

INDUSTRIES.

In district there was iron ore of good quality, and in Dandrum there was said to be coal, lead, and silver mines; in Killybeggan there was coal deposit; if these were developed emigration would be prevented, 35686.—If money were given to start, and give necessary instructions, capital would probably

GREENE, MR. CHARLES E.—continued.

be found in district; only industry at present was Castlewellan Quarry; it needed development and up-to-date machinery; it could then employ ten times as many people as at present, 35638.—Iron ore had been shipped to North of England not more than ten years before, 35660.

DONNELLY, REV. J. J.

See pp. 29-32.

FISHERIES.

Ardglass had formerly about 400 fishing boats, and annual value of fish was about £50,000; now earlier taking of fish prevented herring fully maturing, and population of Ardglass was affected, 35695, 35710-11, 35713, 35772.—Fishermen said there should be a close season for Ardglass from 1st January to 25th May, as fishing was being threatened with total destruction owing to invasion of Scotch and English fleets before fish was fully matured, 35693, 35702, 35714, 35702, 35775, 35773.—Trawlers were doing much damage along the Ardglass coast, notwithstanding efforts of Government to prevent their coming within three-mile limit, 35695, 35774, 35782.—Steam trawlers were all owned by foreigners, 35746.—Trawling limit should be increased from three miles to six miles, as in consequence of natural ditch formed by lakes at Dundrum Bay within three-mile limit, fish congregated there, and trawling tore up these shoals, 35695, 35750, 35772.—Extension of three-mile limit was an international question, 35703.—Government made periodical inquiries, but nothing ever came of them, 35693, 35699, 35709, 35739.—Questions had also been asked in Parliament, but with no result, 35698, 35786.—About thirty-five years ago Government had spent about £35,000 in erecting a quay, but the work was incomplete, because a dangerous rock called Charm Rock had not been removed; fishermen were very much afraid of this rock; they asked that it should be removed, 35693, 35704.—Representations about Charm Rock had been brought before Department of Agriculture, but with no result, 35781.—Not much money was required to remove it, and it would not in any way damage the pier, as it was quite detached, and did not protect the harbour, 35723-25.—Ardglass was fishing market for Cloughy Harbour, Portlargo, and Killybeg, 35695.—Caring station would be a great benefit to the fishermen, 35693, 35705-7.—Nets with large mesh and nets with small mesh would be required if close season was not established, as they could then compete with English and Scotch fishermen by beginning fishing as early as they did, 35693, 35704, 35772, 35776.—Formerly three steam-boats plied between England and Ardglass, and herring sold for from £1 to £3 per cask; now average price was 7s. 6d. per cask; 35707.—Scotch and English boats made good business of fishing, because they had good boats and could follow fish round in any weather, 35709-12.—If Ardglass men had same class of boats they also could follow fish round, 35713.—About 100 Northern Irish boats fished in Ardglass Harbour, 35734-5.—Fishermen were very anxious to get larger boats and to have machinery which Scotch and English boats had for hauling up nets, 35746.—Only twelve boats belonged to people of Ardglass, out of all that fished in the harbour, 35749.—Ardglass men depended on sea for livelihood; during winter months they sailed, 35714.—They started preparing boats in March, and season ended in October; then they became sailors in foreign vessels, 35746.—Formerly they were able to make good living during winter by white fishing, but steam trawlers had destroyed that, 35767-8.—They now began fishing in March or April, but their nets were not small enough to begin as early as Scotch and English boats, 35770-72.—Formerly towards end of season fish were caught about ten miles out; now they had to go out thirty miles, 35774.—Even if limit of trawling was extended, men would have to go to sea in winter if white fishing was not successful, 35782.—Removal of consignee stations from Ballyharney and Killybeg had been very bad for fishermen, as trawlers were more daring than ever, 35782-3.

DONNELLY, REV. J. J.—continued.

CONGESTION.

Portlargo should be limit of scheduled district, not Cloughy, as that was quite as needy district, 35699.

MORROW, MR. ANDREW.

See pp. 33-5.

AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES.

Itinerant instructor held classes and conducted experiments all over country; there were about 150 experimental plots; agricultural classes were held in Downpatrick and Banbridge, 35755.—There were also poultry, horticulture and bee schemes; shows were subsidised, and there were schemes for small farmers and for cottages erected under Labourers Acts, 35786.—Small holdings scheme was divided into three classes, labourers' cottages, holdings under £25 and holdings under £50, prime of fruit trees and potatoes to value of 12s. 6d. were given for best-kept labourers' cottages in Downpatrick Union, 35787-8.—£5 holdings were classed under £25 valuation, as very few entered under lower classification, 35790, 35809-11.—Experimental plots were sold to tenants; people were much interested; report of 1896 was much sought after, 35792-8.—Average attendance at classes was thirty to forty farmers or farmers' sons, 35795-7.—Kilfearl Rural District had fared worse than rest of county under scheme; it was difficult to get anyone to keep a bull, as district was so poor, 35799-800.—Poor districts should have more help than rich ones, if money was available, 35803.—Supplementary scheme, independent of general scheme, should be arranged and worked through County Committee, 35804-5.—Department had special powers in scheduled areas to aid County Committee, 35807.—Special attention should be paid to poorer districts in agriculture and industries, and larger proportionate grant made to them, 35808.—Labourers' Cottage Competition included cottage with garden of one statute acre, 35812-3.—There was no class between that and £25 valuation, 35814.—In labourers' classes there were ten or twelve entries for three or four prizes, 35815.—When next class was fixed below £15 valuation there were so few entries that it was decided to raise it to £25, 35839-5.—Scheme for £50 valuation was well advertised in eleven newspapers, 35825.—County Committee held meetings in Belfast, 35827.—Royal Ulster Agricultural Society was for whole of Ulster, 35828.—Only Antrim and Down subscribed to it, 35830.—Sum at disposal of County Committee for whole county was about £3,400, 35831.—Flax scheme had been put out, as it was not successful; there was prize for best scythed flax, but when it was brought to market only two men would buy; nobody would give proper price for good, well-cleaned flax, 35835-42.—It was worth two or three shillings a stone more than the people got for it, 35836.—Flax cultivation would increase if proper prices were paid, 35836.—There were markets at Castlewellan, Rathfriland, and Newry, 35844.—Prices were not regulated by quality and cleanness; buyers would not give proper price, 35845-6.

TECHNICAL CLASSES.

Manual instruction was given, and there were domestic economy classes, 35847.—Carpentry work was taught in evenings, under supervision of practical man, 35848.—There were two sets of tools, and classes lasted for six weeks—three nights at one class and three at another, 35850.—Upper and Lower Mourne had had no classes so far, as all centres had not yet been visited, 35851-2.—Only difficulty in poor districts was to get places to hold classes in; in poor district near Mayobridge class was held in National School; in Mayobridge and Killybeg successful domestic economy classes were held, 35853.—Manual instruction scheme had been tried for three years, 35854.—There were four agricultural and three technical instructors, 35855.—But only one manual instructor, 35856.—Witness thought itinerant instruction one of best things that had ever come into county, 35859.—Instructor had begun last year at Drumara and Hillsborough, and then went on to Ballynahinch and Crossgar, 35858-6.—Whether, plain gates, anything belonging to farms were made at classes, and

MORROW, Mr. ANDREW—continued.

pupils learnt how to handle tools, 35873-5.—Classes were principally attended by farmers' sons, also labourers' sons, in Hillsborough and Downara, 35875.—If there were more tools and benches instructor could double his classes, 35877.—Domestic economy classes had been started at Kilsall, and instruction was also being given in embroidery and drawn thread work, 35878.—Classes had also been held at Roscrea and Hilltown, 35879.—There was one instructor, and about seven centres, 35881.—Technical scheme was small one—£200 from Department and £100 from county, 35882.—Preliminary training of manual instruction should be given in National schools, 35883.

FISHING.

Mr. McGeath had sent up strong resolution to Fishery Commissioners as to ship, giving boats on share system, and trawling off County Down; Department had answered that they could not help, and that County Down got fair proportion of protection against trawling by the "Belga," 35884.

MALEENAN, Mr. JOHN.

See pp. 35-7.

CONGESTION.

Witness's knowledge confirmed evidence given by Father Murphy and by Father Lowry, in Newry, as to congestion in Lower Mourne; not one-fifth of holdings were life-supporting; land was very poor, and no improvement of holdings would enable holders to live on them without other means of existence, 35887.

INDUSTRIES.

Poorness of soil was compensated for by natural resources in way of mines and minerals; if they were developed there would be occupation for all; people were enterprising and would take shame if industries could be opened up; there were quarries at Castlewellan and Hilltown; latter granite was cheaper and inferior, and it was difficult to place it on market owing to difficulties of transport, 35887.—If modern machinery were erected local effort would find half cost, if Government gave other half, and demand for stone would be increased without reducing demand for labour, 35888-92.—There was no local capital available, as men who had money had no knowledge of quarrying, 35893.—Dundrum was port for shipping stone; Newcastle would be more convenient if railway continued to pier; railway from Newry through Hilltown would tap quarries and deliver at the sea, 35894.—It should come from Maybridge, between Hilltown and Rathfriland, across the Bann River down to Warren Bridge, 35897.—Good building sand was found at Hilltown, if it could be cheaply conveyed to Belfast there would be market for it, 35898.—Light railway would give cheap and easy transit, 35899.—Duchess Mountain Mines had been worked by an English company for some years, but they could not make it pay owing to cost of transit, 35900-902.—New railway from Banbridge to Castlewellan ran near it, and it might be worth while trying to restart in, 35902-4.—Landlords often stood in way of development of industries by demanding unfair rents, 35904.—Under Act of 1903, mines and minerals became vested in Estates Commissioners, and could be used in interests of public for public purposes; but that was not the rule for estates sold under Ashbourne Act, 35905-8.—The one of this mine was excellent, and it ought to pay if properly started, and with transit facilities, 35909-10.—Quarries were not working, first, because of want of proper transit facilities, secondly, because of want of proper machinery; if these were supplied they could compete with Scotland and elsewhere, 35923-24.—If Government or reliable company took quarries in hand there would probably be some local capital found, 35927-41.—No representations had been made to Department of Agriculture in Dublin respecting these quarries, 35942.

MULLAGHAN, Rev. D.

See pp. 37-8.

CONSUMERS.

In parish of Kilcoo there were 783 rated valuations; about 500 of these, or 63 per cent., did not reach over 25; if crops failed or failed in America

MULLAGHAN, Rev. D.—continued.

or Great Britain did not send home money people were reduced to misery; not twenty per cent. of farmers of district subsisted on products of land, 35944.—They depended on earnings from children abroad; money made by women of family at embroidery, etc., and sheep grazing; latter industry was threatened because of large settlement areas made over to Belfast Water Companies, without compensation to tenants, 35945.—No arrangement had been made in lease about tenants' right to mountain grazing, but it had been custom for many years, 35945-7.—Belfast Waterworks had appropriated large areas; also Fossdown Water Company had done so; some persons had been walled in, 35950-51.—This would affect a great number of sheep farmers, 35952.—There were no large farms in neighbourhood that could be divided for enlargement of small holdings; even if there were farmers would want to divide them among their own children; even as it was, sub-division was going on, and there was danger of as great congestion as ever, 35953-4.

RAILWAYS.

Light railway being made from Newry, by Hilltown, Kilscoo, and Castlewellan, would be of great benefit to district, 35953.—No railway company had been approached with regard to new line required to develop iron ore and quarry industries; Great Northern Company would not favour it as they had a railway from Newry by Scarva, Banbridge, and Fossdown in to Newcastle; if line were made it would be a success because of freights and summer passenger traffic to Newcastle, 35955-6.

DRAINAGE.

Considerable portion of land lay under water for from two to four months of the year, notably in Sheversons district, which could be reclaimed if river were rank; some propositions were prepared to contribute £50 if work were done, 35953.—It was no use playing at the work, it would have to be done thoroughly if done at all, 35954.

RE-ASSIGNMENT.

Planting trees on rough portions of district should be tried to replace timber cut down, 35954.—If planted thirty sheep might be admitted to graze through them in a few years; tenants thought they could combine planting and grazing, 35955-61.

MURRAY, Mr. PATRICK.

See pp. 38-9.

STATUTE OF WITNESS.

Witness's valuation was £37 10s., acreage 32 statute; he had valued land for twenty-five years for Land Comrs., 35970.—He had been asked to value for landlords, but did not, as they refused to take his valuation, 35973.

CONGESTION.

District from Longhishlandreary Mountains down to Ballyrashinch should be scheduled, 35974.—It comprised twenty-five townlands in Banbridge and Downpatrick Unions, 35975.—Castlewellan and Lottalton were two of the electoral divisions, 35976.—In townland of Clannagharran there were 1,242 acres, valuation £718, under 23 twenty holdings; under £5, 32; under £10, 21; under £20, 8; under £30, 3, and only witness's over £30, 35977.—Lord Annesley had bought wooded portion of estate from a man named Scott, 35978.—Out of 201 acres he held 100 acres in grass, rest was wooded; Ballyrashinch townland had 1,747 acres, valuation £612, 86 holdings; 23 were under £5 valuation, 30 under £5, 20 under £10, and 18 under £20, 35980.—Formerly head-born weaving supplied work for people on small holdings, and turf was plentiful, but that was now changed, and people were hiring out their children and emigrating, 35981-3.—Boys of twelve or thirteen hired themselves out until they earned enough money to take them to America or England; then they sent home money to pay the rent, 35984.—Formerly weaving was carried on for whole flax season, 35987-89.—Foreign competition had also affected the people, and prices of farm produce had fallen, 35992-3.—Witness contended that official returns showing increases of prices were

MURRAY, Mr. PATRICK—continued.

wring; in 1865 he had sold flax at 12s. a stone; now they had to sell better flax at 7s. a stone, 36005.—Prices were good when Griffith's valuation was struck in 1852; County Down was most highly valued county in Ireland, 36006.

INDUSTRIES.

Granite quarries could be developed, and there was good supply of iron ore, 36007.—Iron ore sample gave 75 per cent. of iron, 36008.—A great deal of water power was going to waste, 36009.—Re-afforestation and arterial drainage should also be undertaken, 36010.

M'GOWAN, Rev. E. V.

See pp. 40-4.

CONGESTION IN RATHLIN.

If Rathlin Island were provided with proper harbour accommodation, that would be solution of many difficulties, 36011.—To this end Commission should urge that the island be taken by the Congested Districts Board, 36012-5.—Much of the land was very infertile, and holdings averaged from five to ten acres; drainage was badly needed, 36016.—Conditions on Rathlin were analogous to those of western islands, and if Congested Districts Board treated it in same way, much good would result, 36146-7.

FISHERIES.

Fishing industry was hampered by want of proper boats and by illegal interference of steam trawlers, 36013.—Good fish abounded, but there was no means of curing fish, and so fish were often emptied again into the sea, as in bad weather harbour accommodation was so bad that fish cannot be taken to market, 36018-20.—Cure would not come to the island, on account of difficulties, but they would if there were proper harbour accommodation, 36021-2.—Ling and haddock were caught in winter, and there were great quantities of herring and mackerel, 36023-4.—They could not be taken to Ballycastle owing to the smallness of the boats, 36025-6.—And harbour accommodation on both sides prevented transit, 36028.

HARBOUR ACCOMMODATION.

Good harbour accommodation would mean that cattle could be safely taken to mainland; now they were taken in small boats, and horses had to be thrown on the strand and be put into small boats, and as Ballycastle they had to swim ashore, and were often injured in the process, 36029.—Government had sanctioned grant of £1,000 for improvement of Port Ushet, but there had been delay, and work was not yet begun, 36031-3.—County had also agreed to give grant, 36034, 36035.—Work should be done in summer, as storms would prevent it in winter, 36036.—County Council had committee to look after matter, and they were to visit and inspect, 36037.—It was not question of choosing site, but of improving existing Port of Ushet, 36038-41.—Engineer was coming to inspect, with County Council, 36041.—Proper harbour accommodation on Rathlin and on mainland was the great want, 36172.

STEAM TRAWLING.

Inquiry to be held at Moville into damage done by steam trawling ought to be extended so that Rathlin might be included, 36045.—It would be impossible for Rathlin fishermen to go to Moville to give evidence, 36048.—Steam trawlers could be more easily observed from Rathlin than from the mainland, 36049.

INDUSTRIES.

Kelp industry suffered greatly from want of proper harbour accommodation, as cargo was injured in transit as boats were so small; if there were large vessels all the kelp could be taken away at one time, 36010.—Formerly it had been an important industry, and it could be restored, 36111.—It was sold in the condition of cakes; fuel was very scarce in the island, as it had to be brought from mainland; dried cowdung was used, 36012.—Limestone quarries

M'GOWAN, Rev. E. V.—continued.

had been opened, and gave work to fifteen or twenty persons, 36119-22.—Sewing, embroidery, etc., could be taught by the girls by instructions from County Kerry, 36145-6.—Difficulty was want of premises in which to carry on instruction; hand spinning and knitting stockings might be developed, 36142.—Lady was willing to come free for one month, 36150.—When girls were instructed themselves they could instruct others, 36151-2.—Poultry, fruit culture, and bee-keeping might be profitably encouraged, as climate was not severe and frost did not last long, 36153-5.—Potatoes were dug up pretty early, 36157-8.

CONDITIONS OF LIFE ON RATHLIN ISLAND.

Prices were very high on island, as everything had to be brought from the mainland; if larger vessels could come into harbour all provisions would be cheaper; some shopkeepers had boats of their own, 36015-7.—Post came twice a week—Tuesdays and Fridays, 36018.—In 1841 population was 1,010, now it was 358; there were twenty-two townlands and only seventy-four houses, 36112.—After potato famine population was much diminished, 36113.—Present valuation was £200; formerly people cultivated all the island and manufactured all their clothing, 36114-5.—Land had now gone largely from tillage to grass, 36116.—Formerly dense population made them cultivate all available land and develop cottage industries, 36117.—There was not much migratory labour, as people were too much attached to their homes to go away, 36118.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage would greatly benefit the island, as then low lands would afford pasture for cattle, and land would be available for tillage; it would not be difficult to carry out, as there was fall to the sea; in some places there would have to be cuttings through rocks, 36045-8.

FENCING.

Need of adequate fencing was great, as cattle often grazed to edge of cliffs, where there was sweetest grass, and fell over; stone and wire fences were used; security of cattle would add to prosperity of island, 36048-50.—Congested Districts Board had fenced in cliffs in Arranmore Island; some work in Rathlin should be undertaken, 36051-2.

LAND PURCHASE.

Land had not been sold to tenants, but if Congested Districts Board would assist islanders if land were sold, they might get it under more favourable conditions, 36054.—Tenants had entered Land Court to get a reduction, 36056.—In 1881 rental of island amounted to £200 a year, 36057-8.—After passing of Act of 1881 landlord gave some abatement to tenants because they did not go into court, 36059.

GRAZING.

Large grazing ranches should be parcelled out among those who had small holdings, 36059-1.—Small holders had no right of grazing on that tract, 36061.—Two holdings in island were about 250, 36063.—Large tract in middle of island had not been tilled for fifty years, 36064, 36065.—Pasture attached to small holdings was very poor, as all good land was cultivated, 36066.—Small holdings had poorest tillage land; best land was on good farms, 36066-7.

VALUATION OF HOLDINGS.

One half of holdings were under £10, 36068.—Four-fifths under £15, 36070.—Valuation exceeded rental, 36071.—Rental of island was less than half of the £200 of twenty-five years ago, 36072-4.—Tenants were in Court now, but Lay Commissioners had not yet inspected holding, and no decision had been given, 36075.

ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS.

Good land might be parcelled out among those who had some of poorest holdings, 36077.—They might serve people at a distance also, 36078.—Redistribution would be better than keeping land in commonage, 36079.—There would still be a large number of small occupiers whose condition would not be improved,

M'GOWAN, Rev. E. V.—continued.

3608L.—Land should be reserved for most deserving cases on island, 3608B-4, 3608T.—Small occupiers did not live in neighbourhood of grazing lands; those near were not so deserving as some further off, 36086, 36086.—Tenant of grazing land lived on island and had other means of living—a public-house, 36090-3.—Upper portion of grazing land was in hands of several occupiers who had grazing rights, 36094.—In former times people were living on these townlands, 36099.—Some holdings were held in ranches, 36100.—Redistribution of land was very desirable, but redistribution of people was a great difficulty, as they did not wish to leave their homes, 36101-2.—Holders of grass lands would probably part with them at a reasonable price, 36104.

COMPULSION.

Principle of compulsion was difficult question, 36108.—Whole island had gone into Court, so if they were disturbed by application of compulsion judicial tenants would have to be dealt with, 36107.—If Congested Districts Board bought island they would have compulsory powers, 36108.—Witness saw no difference between applying compulsion to owners in fee and to judicial tenants, 36109.—Large tillage farms employed labour, so if judicial rights were taken away demand for labour would also be taken away, 36111-2.

RAISE.—COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION, &c.

Islanders paid agricultural and technical education rate, but got no return of any sort for it, 36123-7.—They also paid sanitary rate for mainland, 36128.—Also police rate, though there were no police on island, 31129.—Very little was expended on roads, not more than from £45 to £50 a year, 36130.—Rathlin should have first claim upon Committee of Agriculture and Technical Education, as it was so backward, 36131.—There was no representative from island on committee, as it would be very difficult for him to attend meetings, 36134-5.—If technical and agricultural work was to be promoted in Rathlin some administration of its own would have to be employed, as communication with mainland was so difficult, 36136-8.—Department of Agriculture should be made acquainted with such facts, 36139.—In some parts of the country local Agricultural Committee appointed sub-committee to deal with certain part of county, 36142.—Good results would be shown if grant were given yearly by County Council, 36143.

ROADS.

County expenditure on roads was £97 3s. 10d.; rate paid on land was 3s. 3d. in the £; on other hereditaments 3s. 8d, 36152.—This was not only for maintenance, but for special works, 36153.—The island contributed £132 1s. 8d., of which £49 9s. 6d. is on land, and £43 1s. 2d. on other hereditaments, so that £122 was paid in order to get back £47, 36155-7.—There were two representatives on the Rural District Council, both belonging to the mainland, but little had been done by any public body for Rathlin, 36159-63.

SAVINGS BANK.

Post Office had agreed to establish Branch Bank on the island; this would be convenient for putting away rent, &c., until it was required, more than for Savings Bank, as people had not much money to save, 36170.

CATTLE SHEDDING.

Agricultural Department had sent one bull some years ago, but it was taken away, and none had replaced it; one, however, was now waiting at Ballycastle to be taken across, 36175.—When bull was taken away it was probably damaged in crossing, and so value deteriorated, and Department had not taken it away at right time, 36176-7.

BYRNE, Mr. JOHN.

See pp. 45-9.

DESCRIPTION OF RATHLIN ISLAND.

Rathlin was six miles long and three-quarters wide, population 368; it had twenty-two townlands, and was electoral division in Ballycastle Rural Dis-

TRICT, Mr. JOHN.—continued.

trict; it contained 3,396a. 2s. 38p., of which sixty acres were under water; valuation was £1,038 17s., of which £791 was on land and £234 17s. on other hereditaments; about one-sixth of island was in landlord's hands, and let temporarily since 1861, 36183-4.—Land was not let on eleven months' system, but tenants were not judicial tenants, as they did not exist before 1881, 36185-6.—Witness thought that land in landlord's possession might be recovered by landlord without compensation, as he paid rates and taxes, 36187-8.—Landlord would not pay rates for future tenants, 36189.—Altitude varied from sea level to 450 feet; nearest point was five miles from Ballycastle, three from Puckadee, and fourteen from Carrigrohilly; coast line was bold, and climate mild, owing to Gulf Stream; it suffered greatly from storms, especially at harvest time, 36190.—August was wettest month, 36191.—People were occupied in agriculture, fishing, and kelp-making; there were no police or coastguards on island; roads were good, but in some places had very steep gradient, 36192.—They were contrived roads, 36193.—And all were on the county, 36195.—Island had at one time been heavily wooded, but now there were no trees, and had was exceedingly scarce, the people having to burn sods or dry cowdung, 36196-7.—Houses were small, over-crowded, ill-ventilated, and insanitary, 36197.—Parish Committee had effected improvements in other places, and if established in Rathlin by Congested Districts Board or some other body would do some there, 36199.—In some cases cattle were kept in houses, but not in the majority, 36200-1.—There were plenty of stones, with which byres for cows could be made, but people had no proper roofing, 36202.

PAIRIE SCHENES.

There was no prize scheme for encouragement of islanders; their condition was so poor that they did not come within scheme of mainlanders for small allotments and cottages; they were drifting from bad to worse, 36203-5.

EMIGRATION.

People were not much inclined to migrate, but they had to emigrate, as they could not live on the island, they went to America, but not to Scotland or England, for labour, as those in West did, 36205-6.—If Ballycastle coal mines developed they would go over there, 36209.

CONNECTION.

People of Rathlin were being encouraged by clergymen and others to hold on a little longer if possible in hope of a change which would enable them to live as well as if they emigrated, 36209.—Better conditions would be good boat accommodation, assistance in providing boats and fishing gear, money at low rate of interest to improve dwellings, offices, &c., assistance in fencing, in addition proper labour accommodation would be needed at Ballycastle, 36210.—Problem of drifting to the towns faced all countries, old and new, but difference between Ireland and other countries was that people left Ireland altogether; they did not drift to Irish towns, with exception of Belfast, 36212-5.—With reasonable expenditure condition of people could be improved to enable islands to support larger population, 36217.—Long ago people had more money in their hands, 36218-9.—They could not improve much now, as money was very scarce, 36222.—Standard of living had certainly improved, as people wore better clothes, drank tea, and used more tobacco, 36223-5.—Larger population was formerly engaged in fishing than now; three smacks had been known to lie in Ulster Harbour; now there was no chance of improvement unless transit facilities were improved, 36227-30.—Tea averaged about 2s. per pound, and not much whiskey was drunk, as there was not much money for it. There was one public-house on the island, 36231-3.—Police were not required, as violent quarrels were rare, 36235-6.—Re-adjustment of boundaries was urgently needed, and reform in methods of cultivation, as rotation of crops was unknown, and artificial manures or feeding stuffs were rarely used; weeds abounded, and cereal ryegrass was especially pernicious, as it could not be separated from oats and barley, and was ground up with them;

BYRNE, Mr. JOHN—continued.

it had a narcotic effect, 36253.—There was no doctor or dispensary on the island; sick people had to do the best they could if weather was bad and Ballycastle doctor could not cross, 36254-7.

HARBOUR ACCOMMODATION.

If there were large fishing boats in island now, only safe anchorage for them would bead Larnoe or Portrush, 36237.—Ushet was not available, as it was blocked up by stones, 36238-40.—If there were better accommodation people would make an effort to have bigger boats, 36241-3.—Landing facilities and safe anchorage were as necessary at Ballycastle as at Rathlin, 36244.—After visit of Mr. Byrne, when Chief Secretary, Government offered £1,000 to clear out Ushet Harbour and improve Church Bay; County Council was to supplement by £300; but now they heard that only £600 was to be spent, and even that seemed to be indefinitely delayed, 36249-50.—Ballycastle was the market for all the produce of Rathlin, so that improved harbour accommodation was as necessary there as at Rathlin; Ballyntoy was only other harbour within easy reach, and could not be used in some winds, 36250.

VALUATION OF HOLDINGS.

House and garden only, 14; £8 valuation and under 7; £4 valuation and under 14; £10 valuation and under, 10; £15 valuation and under, 19; £20 valuation and under, 6; £25 valuation and under 250, 6; over £50, 1; island was highly valued compared with other places; it seemed as if inconvenience of access had been omitted altogether; if valued in same proportion as mainland there would be a fall, prices were increasing when Rathlin was valued, 36244-7.—Nearly whole island was held in rundale, and grazing was used alternately by different partners; holdings had not yet been inspected, and there would be great difficulty, as boundaries had not been defined; Sub-Commissioner would have to define them himself, 36248-50.—No permanent arrangement should be made that would perpetuate rundale, 36251.

INDUSTRIES.

Green crops are very little grown, and fodder for cattle is very scarce during the winter; cattle make little progress as they were so much exposed; dairy management was not understood, and poultry farming was neglected; in Mr. Robert Gage's time these industries were much better than now; he kept good cattle for breeding; some years ago Department of Agriculture sent a bull, but it was left too long on the island, lost condition, and had to be sold at a loss; since then no other bull had been sent, 36258-9.—But another had been promised this year, 16258A.—Horses were bred, but Rathlin received no benefit from half-penny rate levied by Department; great difficulty was experienced in bringing horses to market; they were often injured in transit; cattle suffered in same way, 36259.—There was good demand for fish at Ballycastle, and it was the market for all other produce of the island; curing establishment was badly needed, as large shoals of fish had to be allowed to go in rough weather, 36260.—Mining industry of Ballycastle should be properly developed, as there was valuable coal there; brick-making was also being developed, and glazed earthenware could be made from silica found there, 36260.—Small creameries might be established, as in Belgem, and in summer cream might be taken to the mainland, and sent to Arney creamery, 36276.

EDUCATION.

Some system of education, teaching children subjects which would be useful to them, such as handicrafts, farming, fish-curing, etc., should be introduced, 36260.

RATES.

Islanders felt aggrieved in being forced to contribute to upkeep of main roads of County Antrim, also in having to pay for sanitary expenses of Ballycastle district, 36260.

BYRNE, Mr. JOHN—continued.

FISHING.

The two fishing stations of neighbourhood were Ballycastle and Ballyntoy, in both of which landing facilities were bad, 36262-3.—Fishing industry had declined greatly during last thirty years, 36264.—Ballyntoy had private harbour belonging to limestone company, but it had been filled up with a stern and needed much improvement, 36265-7.—There was good fishing, and fish was sent to Portrush and Belfast, 36268-9.—Ballycastle had prior claim to expenditure on harbour, as it was harbour for Rathlin, 36270-1.—Both ports were about nine miles from Rathlin, but at Ballycastle there was demand for fish, not at Ballyntoy, 36273-4.

LAVERITY, Rev. F.

See pp. 49-52.

CONGESTION.

Witness had lived on Rathlin Island from 1863 to 1887, and in his opinion state of island was steadily getting worse; in Mr. Gage's time everything was more prosperous, as he took an interest in the island; now there was no organisation nor co-operation among the people; if Congested Districts Board could organise cultivation of land, fishing, and cottage industries, improvement would follow, 36275-36280.—Instruction was very necessary, and inducements for improvements, 36277.—Some one was needed to take general charge of the island, to give instruction and assistance, and improvement would soon follow, 36278-9.—Mr. Gage had done all this for the island; after his death the islanders had no leader, 36280-2.—Change of proprietorship of holdings would be no practical remedy by itself; organisation was necessary for improvement, 36284.—In Rathlin, Catholic priest and Protestant clergyman were constantly being changed, and they had not the same power or interest to organise the people as they would have if there for any considerable period, 36285.—Witness endorsed nearly everything Mr. Byrne had said regarding size of holdings and agriculture; the only measure was wreck from beach, and lime had to be brought from mainland, as there was no fuel for limekiln, 36285-6.—Mr. Gage had kept himself going, and sold lime to the people; he bought cargo of coal yearly, and people could buy from him; dispensing authority resident on island, was what was needed; formerly there were numbers of sailors, but small vessels had disappeared, as steamers had taken their place; now people were helpless for want of instruction, 36286.—Some kind of District Committee was what the island needed, 36291.—If the people were directed they were intelligent enough to become self-supporting in time, 36292.—Committee would need function to promote industries required by island, 36293.—Instructions from different departments could be sent at different times, but a resident general director was necessary; Mr. Gage had filled that position, 36294.—After instruction and direction had been given the people must stand or fall by themselves, 36295-6.—Formerly Mr. Gage brought help, stored it, and shipped it away; now people had to bring their own little stocks separately, and it was often damaged in transit, 36300.

FISHING.

Formerly people depended on fishing, but now nobody lived by fishing only; crabs and lobsters used to be caught, and were very profitable, 36298-9.—Now people did a little at several things, but did not depend on fishing, 36300-1.—If there were fair anchorage fishing could be developed, if loans for boats were given; someone was needed to direct and instruct the people, 36300, 36311.

INDUSTRIES.

Limestone industry had been started, and employed fifteen men, 36303-4.—The sea ought to be natural outlet for hardy boys, and formerly had been, 36307-8.—Some of the girls went out to service, some worked on farms and helped at help, but there were no home industries; the girls were intelligent, and if work were shown to them they would be most willing to do it, 36312-4.—If industries were once organised, people would soon become self-reliant and self-supporting, 36345-6.

LAVERY, Rev. F.—continued.

EMIGRATION AND MIGRATION.

Very few of the people had relatives in America; in 1854 300 or 400 people had sailed to America, but they did not seem to have been successful; they were untrained and illiterate, and unable to compete with city life. 36303-6.—People living on south end of Rathlin would go to America sooner than to the north end. 36315.—When Mr. Gage was landlord he banished wrong-doers to Ireland. 36316.—People would not leave, because they loved their homes. 36319.—If a man were offered better land he might go, but people did not like moving. 36323-5.—People would probably have no objection to migrating to contiguous land, but they would object to going to other end of island. 36334-8.

LAND TENURE.

Rundale was universal on the island, and was a most satisfactory state of affairs; only remedy would be to give every man his own farm to the one place, which would require re-adjustment of boundaries on the whole island. 36336-38.—Mr. Gage had not tried to do away with it; he had found it there, and it was not easy to disturb it; it was always difficult to please people when changes were being made. 36339-42.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

If help of Department of Agriculture depended on grant from County Council it would not be lay to ask local assistance from such poor people as there were in Rathlin Island, but island might be given over to Congested Districts Board, as Glenties had been, and properly organized, or Department could appoint and finance special sub-committee independently of County Committee; probably specially constituted committee would be most satisfactory. 36347-63.

KERR, Rev. MONTGOMERIE.

See pp. 53-5.

FENCING.

Fencing of dangerous cliffs was greatly needed, as animals were frequently lost; farmers themselves could not do necessary work, but they could give time and assistance; stone or wire fences were needed. 36355-6.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Houses were too small, generally having only kitchen and bedroom, with clay floor and thatched roof. 36356.—Places for keeping cattle were very poor. 36357.—Small outlay would improve houses, and people would give their time and labour. 36359-70.—Parish Committee's methods would probably answer very well. 36371.—Farm implements were very inadequate. 36372.—Organization and loans to be paid by instalments would improve matters greatly; fencing would allow children to go to school, which they could not do now, as they had to watch the cattle. 36373-3.—School attendance was exceptionally bad in Rathlin, fifty-four being on roll, only thirty being in average attendance. 36374-6.—Local Committee to organize things was greatly needed. 36379-80.

HARBOUR ACCOMMODATION—COMMUNICATIONS WITH MAINLAND.

Harbour was greatly needed; Mr. Bryon, when Chief Secretary, had promised grant, and County Council and Agricultural Board had given their projections, but nothing had yet been done. 36377-9.—If harbours were improved whereby would have to be offered to induce coasting steamers to call. 36382-4.—At present there was no place where coasting steamer could lie to take cattle, etc., on board. 36385.—Ushet was rather small for a steamer, though a pier had been run up for steamers that carried livestock to Scotland. 36386.—Winter storms would prevent regular communication under best of circumstances. 36387.—Time for sending away cattle was from April to October. 36388.

ROADS.

Good road running through the island was greatly needed, as in some places gradient was very steep. 36379.

KERR, Rev. MONTGOMERIE—continued.

LAND PURCHASE.

In Mr. Gage's time they were asked to sell land, but some legal point prevented sale. 36392.—It would not be profitable to transfer land to tenants without improvement of holdings, as that would stereotype bad conditions. 36393-4.—If Congested Districts Board bought first they would improve everything before re-selling. 36395.—Until land was purchased and improved by them, or some other body, there was little chance of improvement. 36396-9.

WOODSIDE, Mr. ROBERT.

See pp. 53-5.

HARBOUR ACCOMMODATION.

In 1890 Antrim County Council formed a Pier and Harbour Committee; harbours people of Ballycastle division were interested in Ballycastle, Ballintoy and Rathlin; difficulty was that £300 was limit of expenditure allowed on one harbour. 36400; £300 had been spent on Ballycastle four years ago, half of which was given by Department of Agriculture; Church Bay was next considered, but idea of improvement was abandoned, as it would cost too much; Ushet was then considered, as it was a natural harbour; but it had been filled up at one time to prevent smuggling; it could be made available for large fishing boats. 36401, 36404.—It was only three miles across from Fair Head, and sheltered from the north; if boats could not come into Church Bay they could come into Ushet. 36406.—If cleared fifty or sixty-ton vessels could come in. 36405.—Disadvantage of Church Bay was that it was open to north-west. 36408.—Doon was another natural harbour, but it had not been surveyed, and cost of improvement was not known. 36409-10.—Cause of delay with reference to work to be done with Government and County Council grants was that no grant had yet been made; inquiries were being made by the Treasury, and representations were being sent to the Lord Lieutenant; but, so far, neither Treasury grant nor County Council contribution had been actually given; witness had written to Sir James Douglas, Assistant Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant, and explained that Council grant could only be £300. 36411.—There seemed to be some doubt as to whether Treasury would give £1,000 in addition to £300 of County Council, or only £700, to make up £1,000 altogether. 36412-3, 36418-20.—Mr. Oliver was to come and examine Ballintoy on 30th September; they hoped to get him to Ushet. 36413, 36424.—Department of Agriculture had been approached repeatedly. 36415, 36422.—County Council was prohibited, under Section 57 of Grand Jurors Act of 1835, from contributing more than £300. 36417.—Department of Agriculture might give contribution if they knew that Treasury and County Council were also contributing. 36421.—Mr. Lane and Mr. Oliver had made survey of Ushet, and Mr. Brett had made estimate for improvements, but witness had not seen report. 36423.—County Council recognised that unless Ballycastle Harbour was improved it was useless to improve Rathlin. 36427-8.—Witness did not know whether Government understood that. 36429.—There was plenty of fish if only men could get out, and land it after catching. 36432.—County Council was in sympathy with the island, and was doing what it could; it had provided three boats. 36433.

MCGOWAN, Rev. J.

See pp. 55-6.

HARBOUR ACCOMMODATION.

Witness had been administrator of Rathlin from 1897 to 1899; proper harbour accommodation on the island and at Ballycastle was urgently needed; Ballycastle Harbour, since the "improvements" had been rendered more dangerous than before, as a high wall shut out view, and sailors could not see where they were going. 36434.

TRANSPORT FACILITIES.

Good broad road was needed for conveyance of produce across island. 36435.—If Congested Districts Board could help people to get good

MCGOWAN, Rev. J.—continued.

boats a great need would be supplied; formerly there was good cattle boat, but it was now lying high and dry at Ushet, because there was no proper harbour accommodation either on mainland or island; it could carry horses and cattle standing, 36435-6.—It was a good boat, and could stand any sea, with proper harbour accommodation, 36437.—If weather was good cattle could be walked into boat; but at Ballycastle it was so shallow that boat had to be tilted on its side; it drew about three feet, 36438-9.—Boat was in use about one year, but then got into disrepair, and people had no means of repairing it, 36441.—Boat would again be available if repaired, and if Ballycastle Harbour were deepened, 36443-4.—It cost £52, 36445.—It could carry six horses standing, 36447.

IMPROVEMENT OF HOLDINGS.

It would be a great matter if grass land could be broken up and added to existing holdings; land lying uncultivated for sixty years showed no tendency to return to heather, 36447.—On one large stock farm in north-west called Kobb, no one now lived; formerly seven families lived there in comfort; Kilpatrick was another instance; there were traces of cultivation on both; if all could be used for enlargement of holdings it would be a great benefit, 36448.—Far more fodder could be raised if land were cultivated, 36451.—Some men who sent cattle to grass would have holdings enlarged, and have more produce in the end, 36453.—There was some mountain grazing, and re-adjustment all round would effect great improvement, 36454-5.—About 120 acres were available, and if small holders had three or four acres added he would gain immensely so, with proper cultivation of fodder, more cattle could be reared, 36456-67.—Houses were in bad condition, and so were outcrops, 36463.

MIGRATION.

If people were sent far away from their homesteads houses would have to be put up for them, which would be expensive, 36449.

INDUSTRIES.

There were no industries on island now, though formerly people had made everything they required, including shoes, twice for fishing lines, and fishing nets, 36451.—They grew flax for the twine; girls were intelligent, and did well in service in Belfast; they could be usefully employed at home industries, 36462.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage was much needed, as whole island was waterlogged; much land could be made available for cultivation, and climate would be moderated by drainage, which would be much more useful than water walls; the fall was big enough to allow good drainage, 36462-3.

FISHING.

Trawlers did great damage to fishing, as they came at nightfall and dragged away nets and lines of local people, and spoiled fishing beds; there was plenty of fish if there were fishing boats and tackle and curing station for disposing of them afterwards, and that would keep young men on the island, 36465.

CATTLE BREEDING.

Agricultural Board have done something for improvement of strain, but many people thought that harder breed of cattle than shorthorns would do better, such as the Ayrshire, 36463-4.

FENCING.

Fencing edge of cliffs was greatly required, as animals fell over into the sea, thus causing great loss to poor men, 36464.

CREDIT SYSTEM.

Credit system crippled people very much; they bought nearly everything on credit, and prices and interest were high, 36466.—There was no credit bank, 36468.—Only remedy would be money advanced by

MCGOWAN, Rev. J.—continued.

Congested Districts Board on easy terms, 36466.—System of credit banks had succeeded well elsewhere, and ought to be in Rathlin, 36467.

EMIGRATION.

Emigration in real sense was almost unknown in island; even after the famine people had not gone to United States or Australia, but went in sailing vessels to Argentina, and died of yellow fever; at any rate there was never any trace of them, 36467-8.

MCQUIG, Mr. JOHN.

See p. 57.

HARBOUR ACCOMMODATION.

Ushet Harbour needed clearing, as it was blocked up with loose stones, 36471.—If cleared there would be about seven feet at the top in low water, 36472.—Big boats could be kept there if it was cleared, 36473.—Large boat had been lying there for two years, riding at anchor, 36474-5.—Reason why boat built at Portrush was not used was that there was no depth of water for loading it, 36476-7.—She would draw five feet when loaded, 36478.—There were only two feet of water in harbour at present, 36480.—If properly cleared, large steamer could go into harbour, 36483.—But that would be useless unless Ballycastle Harbour was cleared, 36484-5.—It would be possible to take cattle to Larne if boats were big enough, 36486.—Cod, ling, and the common glassen were caught, 36489-91.

MCURDY, Mr. JOHN.

See pp. 57-8.

CATTLE-BREEDING.

Witness farmed $\frac{1}{2}$ acres (Irish), and had another small piece from landlord on eleven months' system, 36493-4.—Greatest difficulty was transport of cattle which were bred on the island, as harbour accommodation was so bad both on mainland and island; inferior cattle had to be bred, as people could not afford feeding stuff for good cattle, 36495.—Bull was great advantage, but cattle were hard to feed, as the breed was too good; more hardy breed would suit island better, 36497-506.—Some sheep were kept on island, but witness had lost all his over the cliffs, as they had been tempted to near edge by sweet grass, 36502-5.—Great need was fencing of cliffs; some stone fencing had been put up, 36505-7.

FARM STOCK.

Witness kept two cows; he had bought shorthorns in Ballycastle, paying £18 10s., for a trial, but he had to give her a good deal of inside feeding, buying linseed cake, etc., in Ballycastle, 36508-10.—He also grew some turnips, 36511.—No others on island treated cattle in this way, as they had inferior cattle; witness found it did not pay, he would have to get rid of his, 36512-5.—He filled all of his land that was worth tilling, 36516-8.—Witness made just enough butter for his family, 36521.—He sold calves at about one year old, 36525.—He had to take what price he could get in Ballycastle, as it would not pay him to bring it back, 36529-32.

HORSES.

Horses were much injured when being taken over to sell, as they had to be tied, and leather straps had to be put on pasterns, 36533.—Horses were bred on the island in spite of the difficulties of transport, 36534.—A stallion was kept by one man on island for use of people, but it was not changed sufficiently often, 36535-6.—Poor men on island were not able to buy horses, but it encouraged them to breed their own horses, 36537.

FISHING.

Witness eked out his living by fishing; he caught enough for his family, and if weather was fine and

M'CURDY, Mr. JOHN—continued.

catch was good he tried to take surplus to Ballycastle, but they had to be sold very cheaply, 36538.—Sometimes when lines were left out trawlers came and swept all away, 36540.—Complaint had been made to Fishery Board, as this was within the three-mile limit, 36541-2.—There was only one coastguard boat, and trawlers came frequently, mostly Scotch and English fishermen, coming without lights and carrying all before them, 36543-50.—Witness had himself nearly been run down by trawler without lights one night when fishing, 36543, 36551-3.—Cod and ling were caught in the Sound; there was also hake on north of island, 36554-5.

M'CURDY, Mr. JOHN.

See pp. 55-60.

Witness's valuation was 25; rent, 25 3s. 4d.; acreage five Irish acres, with a little grazing land besides, 36558-61.

FENCING.

Fencing was badly needed to save cattle from falling over cliffs, 36562.—Stone fences could be erected in some places, but in others there was no way of getting the stone along the rocks, 36600-2.—Wire fences would be best, as in Scotland, though that was not as good protection as stone, 36594-5.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage was needed, as water lay on land and there was no outfall, 36653-4.—Witness drained some himself, but sewage was required to carry water away, 36655.

ROADS.

There were no roads to houses, 36655.—Witness was half a mile from public road; he could get cart to his house in some way, but it was difficult, 36656-8.

FARM STOCK.

Witness kept cow and horse, 36559.—He kept calf just a year, occasionally two calves, 36670.—It was very seldom that second calf was born before first was disposed of, so that there were never three beasts beside the horse, 36571-3.

CROPS.

Corn, barley, potatoes and some beans were grown and used by witness and his family; it was not much used selling potatoes out of Ireland, and people had not good seed, 36574-80.

FISHING.

Fishing would be better industry than farming if properly developed; curing station was badly needed, 36582.—Witness fished in small boat for lobsters, and crabs in summer; lobsters were sold to Manchester and London, after being taken to Ballycastle, but sometimes they died if train was missed or other delay occurred, 36583-5.—Salt lines were often cast away by trawlers, 36590.—Mackerel fishing was best in the Three Kingdoms, 36605.—When caught they had to be taken to mainland and sold, but if a day old they were no use, 36608-9.—Representations had not been made to Department about mackerel fishing, 36610.—Witness had been to Scotland in his own boat, but had not caught any fish, 36612-4.—He had gone on this side of the Mull of Cantyre; it was more convenient there, as harbours were good, 36615-21.—If effort were made to make Department aware of good mackerel fishing it might be way of inducing authorities to construct required pier, 36623-4.—Herrings were caught from May till September, 36625.—Sometimes till November, 36626.—Mackerel were there nearly all winter, 36627.—There was plenty of fish if there were harbour accommodation, 36629.—Scotch would come and compete if there were good shelter; only way of being equal with them would be to have better boats, 36630-1.

M'CURDY, Mr. JOHN—continued.

FOOD SUPPLIES.

There were small grocers' shops on island, 36665.—People made their own bread from oats or flour, 36665-36668.—When mail boats came they brought bread from mainland, 36669.—Bread was 2s. to 2s. 6d. per pound, 36670.

GLASS, Mr. JAMES.

See p. 60.

Witness's valuation was £8; rent, 27; he farmed ten Irish acres, 36674.—Witness's house was too small for his family of eleven; it had only one room, 36649-52.

FENCING.

Fencing was what was most required; witness had lost during last six years three mares, and sheep and cows, 36632.—His grazing came down to sea, 36636.—Wire fencing was only kind that could be put up, 36637.—Stones could not be carried for stone fences, 36639.—If money were granted there could not be choice between fencing and harbour improvement at Ballycastle, as both were needed, 36640-1.—Harbour accommodation was greatly needed at Ballycastle and Rathlin, 36642.

FISHING.

Mackerel had been very plentiful for last four or five years, 36644.—Herring also was abundant, but there was no way of catching either at present, 36645-6.—Until piers were improved it was useless to buy nets, 36647-8.

FARM STOCK.

Witness kept two cows and one horse, selling calves when about one year old, 36554-7.

TILLAGE.

Witness kept more than half of his land in tillage; he grew potatoes, corn, and barley; winter feeding for stock was only hay; he had milk for his children during winter, oatmeal porridge was used on island while people had their own meal, 36558-64.

MANNER OF LIVING.

A good many people got money from children who worked on mainland, though most had to live on what there was on island, 36557-8.—It would be impossible to get on without fish, as salted fish helped to keep people alive in the winter, 36570-2.

POTATO CROP.

Potato crop of last year was not very good, 36673.—No spraying was ever done in island, 36674-6.—Blight was bad last year, 36677.—Spraying was practised on mainland, 36678.—If island committee were formed they might encourage spraying, 36679.

WANT OF ORGANISED.

Witness was young man working on his father's farm when Mr. Cane was alive; island was much worse off since his death, 36680-2.—Some authority or body should be appointed to take his place, 36683-4.

WILLIAMS, Mr. WILLIAM.

See pp. 61-2.

WILLIAMS'S MODE OF LIVING.

Witness had small farm on eleven months' system, with no other land except some grazing from Rev. Mr. Kerr, on which some cattle grazed; he had house and garden, 36687-90.—If grazing land were divided up witness would have to keep fewer cattle, 36691.—He had seven acres at 27 lbs. 2d. rent, 36693-3.

WILLIAMS, Mr. WILLIAM—continued.

It did not pay, 36593.—Land on Rathlin was much too dear, 36597.—Witness could not go into court as his land was under eleven months' system, 36593.—He tilled whole of seven acres, and paid rent to Mr. Gage's agent; grazing was Rev. Mr. Kerr's, 36596-701.—He kept two cows, three yearlings, and one old horse, 36702.—He grew potatoes, turnage, beans, and cabbages, 36704.—Cattle were housed in winter, 36705.

HARBOUR ACCOMMODATION.

Harbour accommodation was greatly needed on both sides; witnesses had commission from Post Office and Lights Board for running boat twice a week to Ballycastle; Ballycastle was worse off than Rathlin, 36705.—One winter 240 worth of boats were lost in it, 36707.—Witness had also contract from Ballast Office in Dublin, 36708.

FISHING.

Herring and mackerel were very plentiful, but they could not be caught, 36710.—Formerly fisheries were much better than now, as people lived by them, 36735-6.

Mr. GAGE.

Mr. Gage's management and sympathetic treatment of the people had good results, 36713.—Apparently island was not in as good condition now as then, though if Mr. Gage's rule were brought back it was doubtful whether younger generation would be so amenable to his rule as older one had been, 36714-6.

LAND TENURE.

Rents were paid yearly some time before Christmas; all tenants held on same conditions, 36717-9.—Witness had been sixteen years in his holding; there was no house on his farm, but he had got one not far away, 36730-1.—Agreement had been signed by tenants for eleven months' system, but stock was not turned out every year, as that would do no good, 36732-4.

STATE OF RATHLIN.

Witness did not think island was going back, nor yet forward; in 1882 things were worse than now, but this year was particularly hard on, 36737-8.—Not many tenants were in arrears; in 1883 Mr. Gage had paid passage of many emigrants; some of these had since been leased from, 36739-30.—Witness thought that standard of living had advanced on the island, and if younger generation had to go back to three days they would be still more discontented, 36737-42.—Considering all the losses and misfortunes of the people, it was wonderful that they were not more in arrears than they were, 36743-4.

GRIFFITH'S VALUATION.

At time of Griffith's valuation times were improving, people were well clothed, flax was grown and spun at home; there was not much money in circulation, but expenses were less.

M'CONNELL, Mr. CHARLES.

See pp. 63-5.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COUNTY COMMISSIONER.

Halfpenny in the £1 rate was struck for agricultural purposes; County Committee had varied on lines adopted in Congested Districts Board's area; sheep and bulls had been introduced into Cusheadall district, 36747.—They were purchased by Department and lent to district through County Committee with two or three years to pay back price, 36748.—Improvement had gone on since 1868, 36750.—Further improvement would be possible, if there were funds; poultry station had been established at Cusheadall; sheep-breeding should be encouraged; nothing had been done as yet, 36751.—If Department made funds available County Committee would make good use of them, 36764.

M'CONNELL, Mr. CHARLES—continued.

CONGESTION.

District was congested, but not scheduled, as it ought to be; farms were very small, and could not make a second living without help from America or Australia, 36755-7.—Cusheadall, from Cusheadall to Garrypoint, was exceptionally poor district, 36750-1.—Many young people went abroad or to sea who might be better employed at home, 36752.—County Council recognised that district required special aid, 36756.—And would develop poorer districts if they had funds, 36757a.—Ratepayers of better-off districts would be glad to help poorer parts, 36758.—Land was very poor and difficult to get at; many farmers taking stock to Ballymena market had to spend two days over it, 36761.—Farming was only industry, 36761a.—Thirty-six per cent. of holdings were under £10, 36761b.—In Ballymena Union 39 per cent. were under £10, in Ballycastle 34, 36761c.

FISHING.

There were no facilities for fishing in district, as lads went to sea or to Glasgow, etc., for employment; at Cusheadall harbour had been filled up, and there was now no local fishing population, though there would be if there were accommodation; County Council was limited to expenditure of £300 for pier improvement, and that had been granted to Rathlin; Cusheadall, Ballycroy, and Cusheadall were just as needy, 36759-61.—Provision of harbours and piers for fishing accommodation was most necessary, 36765.

RAILWAYS.

Railway should be extended from Parkmore to Cusheadall, about six miles further on, 36758-9.—Traffic on county road from Parkmore to Waterfoot, port from which iron ore was shipped, was excessive; road cost £200 to £500 a year in excess of ordinary grant on account of iron ore traffic; railway would save this, and county would be justified in guaranteeing promoters, 36764.—It was half county charge, and would supply wants of whole county in matter of traffic facilities, and tourist and iron ore traffic would justify guarantee; it would give market to Cusheadall, 36765-6.—Northern Counties Company had not been approached, but memorial had been presented to Midland Company, but witness did not know reply, 36767-8.—Market would follow railway, and industries might be established, 36769.—Extension of railway to Cusheadall was very important, 36770.

SHEEP.

Sheep were kept on mountains above Cusheadall; wool was sent to Glasgow and Belfast; if it could be manufactured in district it would give employment, 36770-1.—Occupiers of Glens of Antrim had sheep, 36775.—Improvement in breed would be chiefly for benefit of small holders; larger ones could look after themselves, 36785.

IRON ORE.

Seventy or seventy-five men were employed in Glenravel iron ore mine, and there were probably twice as many in other mines, 36772-3.—Cartage had diminished since traction engine had been put upon road; it cut up road, and farmers had to pay for repairs, 36774-5.

INDUSTRIES.

There was lime industry at Carnlough, 36778.—A doubtful industry for chemical products also, 36779.—There was no industry for women, 36781.—There was no technical scheme in operation, 36782.—Manual instructor had been appointed, who taught carpentry, etc., 36787.—Instruction in domestic science would be very useful, 36789.—Establishment of local industries was one of needs of district, 36795.

STOCK BREEDING.

Sheep and bulls were supplied to this district, but not to County Down; penny sheep and Galloway bulls were best for this district, 36783.—Terms on which they were given were applicable to district only, 36784.—If scheme could be further developed it would pay, 36785.

M'CONNELL, Mr. CHARLES—continued.

EMERGENCY.

Young men who went to sea left place altogether, 36793.—Young women went to America, 36795.—In Ballymena there were industries, and young women found employment at home, 36796.—Belfast was as strange a place to the young women of the Glens as was America, 36797.—They preferred America, 36798-9.—If young men had fishing facilities they could earn more at home than by going to sea, 36800.—It would be better for themselves and district if they could remain at home, 36803.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

Manual instruction was begun two years before; man was paid £100 a year and expenses, and stayed six or eight weeks in one centre, 36818-20.—There had been no official report yet, as work was in its infancy, but it taught men to be handy, etc., 36823-4.—Ballymena had technical school, so instructor did not go there, 36825.—Instructor just proposed to lay foundation of a trade, 36824.—In winter young men could do many things about farms that would otherwise have to be done by paid men, if they had had no instruction, 36823.

BLACK, Mr. ALEXANDER.

See pp. 65-6.

CONGESTION.

Poverty of districts of Oushakall and Oushak was due to uneconomic holdings; this was due to three causes: (1) judicial rents were too high; (2) land was difficult to cultivate owing to height of mountain sides, work having to be done with spade; (3) difficulty of marketing produce, owing to distance, bad roads, and lack of railway accommodation, 36828.—Farmers could only make rent by using labour of families who worked for nothing, and using money sent by friends in America, 36830.—On steep mountain sides up-to-date tools could not be used on agricultural land, 36831-2.

LAND PURCHASE.

Holdings had not been bought out, as people could not afford to buy at present rents, 36834.—Majority were second term rents, too high for basis of purchase, 36835-6.—Landlords in general knew very little about the value of their land; they would feel aggrieved if they had to sell at lower years' purchase than others, 36837.—Even resident landlords did not often inspect their farms, 36839-41.—Judicial rents were too high; rent fixing in these poor districts would require special treatment by Land Commissioners; they should take into consideration difficulty of cultivating land, instead of taking exact value, 36842-3.—Commissioners' system prevented them from making such allowances, 36845-47A.—Griffith's valuation was higher there than in any part of country, consequently farmers had to pay high rates, 36848.—Sub-Commissioner apparently did not take all these things into consideration, 36849-50.—Very few farms had been sold, and they fetched a large price; most farms were headed down from father to son, 36850-7.—Witness could not give any purchase price, 36858-10.—In what negotiations there were landlords and tenants could not come to terms, 36861-3.—Witness had known of one case where landlord offered to sell at 24 years' purchase on first term rents, on condition that there was no bargaining, tenants must either refuse or accept, 36865-7.—One property in Antrim had been sold under Ashbourne Act at twenty years' purchase, 36868-21.—Witness did not know of anything that had enhanced value of land in Antrim to justify increase of five years' purchase, 36862-3.—Witness suggested that land should be fairly valued by independent Government body such as Congested Districts Board, and brought out under Act of 1903, 36870-1.—Basis of purchase might be amount of security divided into number of years' purchase, 36872.—Government body should decide the number of years' purchase, 36873.

VALUATION.

Witness was sheep farmer, with holding of £3,600, with only a couple of acres tillage, 36881-3.—Not a judicial tenant, 36884.—In Pink Schedule proximity

BLACK, Mr. ALEXANDER—continued.

to market was taken into consideration; where rent was fixed, value visited and inspected land; land had nothing to do with fixing rent, 36885-83.—Commissioners took difficulties into consideration to a certain extent, but not fully, 36883-36888.—Rents were much below valuation, one example being: valuation £55, rent £25, 36884.—Same schedule ruled determining of prices all over Ireland, 36886.—Man with practical knowledge of farming and impartial as between tenant and landlord would not be likely to fix rent too high, 36881.—Commissioners had not enough knowledge of farming generally in difficult place to fix rent quite fairly, 36884.—They valued on a system for whole country, 36893.—There was nothing to be said against personnel of Sub-Commissioner; the only thing was, they did not take local circumstances into consideration, 36896-8.—In time of Griffith's valuation farmers broke down often more than they did now; most of them went to America, 36902.—Standard of living was higher now, and wages had risen; lands had fallen and prices had risen, so no one was better off, 36903-6.

METHODS OF CULTIVATION.

Horse was kept on £10 holdings as a rule, 36887.—Land was too steep to plough, so had to be cultivated with spade; amount of arable land was small for size of holding; farmers had to try to cultivate every bit of it that they could, 36890-70.—Farmers could not afford to keep up-to-date tools such as spring grubbers, turnip sowers, etc.; farm implements had improved, but these farmers could not afford them, 36871-4.—They understood the tools, but could not buy them, 36875-7.—Turnip-hoe cost from £3 to £3 10s., 36879.—It would be advantage if Department or someone else provided for hiring out of these implements, people to repay in certain number of years, 36882-3.—Or to give the implements at cost price, repayment to extend over certain number of years, 36884-5.—Land had great tendency to go back to its original state, dry land to whins and wet land to rushes; it required working up if full value was to be got out of it, 36886.—Slopes of hills solved question of drainage to some extent, 36887.

STANDARD OF LIVING.

About 1,662 people used very little tea, and manufactured their own clothes, 36890-7.—These things would now cost a good deal; formerly people lived more on potatoes and oatmeal, 36893.—Living altogether was more costly now than half a century ago, 36891-4.—Sanitary dwellings should be erected for farmers as well as for labourers; loans should be granted, 36895.

COST OF LABOUR.

Boys who formerly got £3 for half-year now got £12, 36898.—But labour-saving machinery had come into use, 36896.—If small holders of £10 or £12 valuation had 65 hire labour they went to the wall, 36903.—English system of farming was different from Irish, 36900.—Sheep were kept by large farmers; small men did not try them, 36911.—Big farms were generally held on lease, as in Scotland, not on eleven months' system, as grazing farms in south were held, 36902-5.

COMPULSION.

If compulsion was adopted price ought to be fixed on fair and square principle; it was all a question of price, 36907-52.—Compulsion was already applied to occupiers of land for railway purposes, 36884.—And under Labourers Act, 36955.—State had said that dual ownership and congestion must disappear, so they would have to take the best steps to effect this, 36957-8.—If any loss was incurred, whole State should bear the loss, 36974-36976.—It would not be right to leave people with less income than before, 36975.—If farmer had bought land too dear he had no right to expect help from State, 36977.—Fair value should be guaranteed, 36979.

INDUSTRIES.

Wool was sent to Scotland, through buyers in Glasgow, 36989-90.—Landlords of district were Earl of Antrim and Lord Londonderry, 36982.—If woollen

BLACK, Mr. ALEXANDER.—continued.

industry were established it would probably be successful, 3665.—Mill at Cusheadall had failed for want of facilities for putting material on market, 3666.—Shipping facilities would not be required for raw wool, but for manufactured, if industry were started, and for other things; it was now shipped at Ballyvaughan in coasting steamers belonging to Mr. McIlwaine, 3666-9.

FISHING.

Fishing in slack season would help to keep young men at home, 3680.—Plenty of herrings were to be caught if there were facilities, 3682-4.—Piers and boats would be required both at Cusheadall and Cusheadra, 3686.—Evidence would be given of class of piers required, 3690.

DOBBS, Mr. S. M.

See pp. 59-71.

CUSHEDALL DISPENSARY DISTRICT.

District contained 42,641 acres; 5,500 acres were turf and barren mountain, 35,155 acres were mountain grazing, 11,300 pasture, 113 plantations; only 3,894 acres were arable; of this, 970 acres were fair, level, alluvial land, 3684.—Climate was cold, as aspect was north-westerly, 3695.—Rainfall 42 inches, 3696.

VALUATION.

Population in 1801, 2,269; valuation £3 12s. 6d. per head; valuation was misleading, as domestic mills, mines, railways and quarries, etc. were highly valued; deducting these holdings over £100, valuation was less than £11 per holding; Antrim was highest valued land in Ireland, 3698.—Reason was Griffith's valuation had begun in the South in former times, and finished in North-east thirteen years after, when prices were rising; best standard of comparison with West was second term judicial rents, 3700.—Valuation of different Commissioners varied greatly; in township of Tanlaght valuation was £167 15s., and rent £80 7s., judicial rent, 3701-2.—Mr. J. N. Black's farm was valued at £63 17s.; rent was £25, 3703.—In Glenties valuation was £380, rent £517 6s. 8d., 3704.—Average of rent was half valuation, 3706.—Average valuation was £11; if rent were £5, valuation would be down to £5, or little more than standard of congestion, 3707.

CONGESTION.

A local Committee had been meeting for last three weeks to gather as much information as possible about congestion generally to submit to Commission, and had made report, 3692-3.—Poverty and congestion were chiefly due to absence of means of communication; there was no land available for migration, but land would support population if there were outlets for farmers' produce and fishing facilities; narrow gauge railway ended on top of mountain seven miles from place it is supposed to serve; passenger service was bad, and goods rate enormous, from Larne to Pettrah; over fifty miles of wild coast there was no harbour; results were—(1) farmers had to take loss for produce, (2) shopkeepers had to charge more for goods, (3) fishermen could do no good, as there was no safe anchorage, 3707-8.—(4) No industry could flourish with delays and expense of carriage; (5) limestone and iron ore were plentiful and good, but scarcely worked; (6) tourists scarcely visited the place; remedies were—(1) Harbour and extension of railway to Cusheadall; (2) good road to Cusheadra; (3) seven miles; terminals of iron ore railway was four miles from Cusheadall, 3709-12.—There were no engineering difficulties in way of extending railway line, it had been surveyed, 3714.—Extension of railway would help to develop fishing industry, and facilitate putting farm produce on market, 3705.

DOBBS, Mr. S. M.—continued.

HARBOUR ACCOMMODATION.

There were fine sites where harbour could be erected; harbour and railway were connected, as shipment of iron ore would be chief feature, 3713.

DRAINAGE.

Glenariff River should be drained, as 300 acres of best land were often flooded, 3713.—Surface drainage where people had encroachment would be difficult, 3715.

INDUSTRY.

Woollen industry might be established, and re-foresting carried out, 3713.—Men employed in mines lived mostly on Ballyvaughan side, 3718.—Parkmore Station was nearest to mines, 3720.

SHEEP.

Agricultural Department's returns showed about 19,000 sheep in district, 3715.—Mountains were in common, 3716.—Mountains were only fit for sheep grazing; nothing but black-faced sheep could live on hills, 3717-9.—Wool was sold through brokers in Glasgow, and it was sent by either Larne or Belfast, 3721.—Sheep and cattle were put on same mountain in summer; it would be better for farmers if holdings were separated, 3722.—Under existing circumstances breed could not be improved, 3723.—There were no shepherds on mountains, 3724.

EMIGRATION.

Young girls emigrated to America; they did not go to Belfast, 3725.—There was no English or Scotch emigration, 3725.—Not even for the harvest, 3725.—Young men would do better if they stayed at home and fished instead of going to other countries, 3725.—Fish could only be caught by following it, 3726.

DIVISIONS OF UNION.

Division of union was costly, as part of it was in Larne Union; one of most congested districts was Ardara, in Larne, 3726.—Local Government Board fixed boundaries, which did not vary, 3727-8.

LAND PURCHASE.

There had been one sale to about twelve tenants at 4s. in the £ on second term rents, 3729.—Witness did not think that any serious effort had been made, either to buy or sell, 3731-41.—4s. in the £ on first term rents was an extravagant price, 3742.—2s. in the £ on second term rents fixed in 1886 was also extravagant, 3746.

CATTLE.

Cattle were generally sold from eighteen months to two years; that was cattle on small holdings, 3735-7.

TRAILL, Mr. WILLIAM A.

See pp. 71-3.

IRON ORE INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORT FACILITIES.

Witness had been associated with iron ore industry while working on His Majesty's Geological Survey, from 1835 to 1882; history of scenery had also struck him greatly; iron ore industry had been developed to a certain extent by opening of mines at Cragga, Parkmore, etc.; ore was carried through Ballyvaughan to Belfast, thence shipped to Barrow; cheap sea freights compensated for high rates to Belfast; mineral railway from Ballyvaughan was owned by Northern Counties Railway Company, and they wished traffic to come over their line; ore was 24s. to 27s. a ton, so long railway carriage could be afforded, and at that time Antrim iron ore was specially adapted for making of steel on account of its freedom from sulphur and phosphorus; about 1875 to 1880 London Company took royalties along Glenariff valley, and constructed narrow gauge railway from Red Bay up to head of Glenariff valley, and constructed concrete pier, giving deep water at all tides; 295,000 was spent, as Company expected to ship 200,000 tons per annum; greatest amount they actually did ship was 15,000 in any one year; there were object-

TRAILL, Mr. WILLIAM A.—continued.

tions to shipment from Belfast, and price of iron ore fell; overhead railway was constructed from mines to Red Bay at cost of £49,000, but it never worked properly; some said cables were wrong; others thought they had been recklessly cut, but witness thought cable wires were too light and broke under weight of iron ore, 37060-2.—Carting and traction carriage to Red Bay had cut up roads badly, and excessive upkeep had to be paid by ratepayers, not mine-owners; in 1880 Parliamentary plans for short railway between Parkmore and Glenarriff were carried through, an Act of Parliament and running powers over Red Bay Railway as far as Ballymena were carried through, in spite of opposition of Northern Counties Railway, 37062.—Nothing ever came of it, as prices fell from 25s. to 8s.; English Company found it would not pay, and project was abandoned, 37063-8, 37064-8.—Of late years there had been some improvement in iron ore industry, and tourist traffic was developing, 37067.—These mines were not working, but Parkmore ones were, 37070-1.—Pier at Red Bay had been very substantially built; system was to telegraph of steamer to Larne Harbour, twenty-five miles away, and it was there in one and a-half to two hours, 37073-6.—Witness held same views as in 1880, that only way to develop district was to connect Red Bay railway at Parkmore with old Glenarriff railway, 37075.—Cost would be about £35,000, 37078.—Distance six miles, 37079.—£35,000 would not complete pier and railway, 37080.—About seventy-five men were now employed in iron ore works, and it might be developed in other places, 37082-4.—If line was re-created it should not only be mineral line, but to develop tourist traffic as well; tourist traffic increased sale of all products in neighbourhood, 37085-8.—Company had closed up because of fall in prices, and they were not likely to come back again, 37089-90.—Industry could be revived if proper harbour and pier were erected, 37093.—If there were terminal station at Red Bay, Cushendall would be distant a little over two miles along level road, and iron ore could be shipped either at Glenarriff pier or from Red Bay pier; it would not be easy to extend railway from Red Bay to Cushendall as engineering difficulties were too great; other project could be carried through with grant from Congested Districts Board and Barometal Guarantee for £10,000, 37093.

M'ALLISTER, Mr. DANIEL.

See p. 73.

RAILWAY RATES.

Railway rates were particularly high against Cushendall on account of want of competition, 37095-6.—Small steamer had been brought from Derry, but it did not pay for want of traffic, 37096.—Pressure had been brought to bear on railway company, but they would not reduce rates, 37097-8.—Matter had not been brought before Railway Commission now sitting in Dublin, as it was not easy for persons living so far away to go to Dublin to give evidence, 37099-102.—Only thing Congested Districts Commission could do was to send copy of evidence to Railway Commission, or district could write to Secretary of Railway Commission, 37103.—If pier were restored and steamer could call there was better chance of better treatment, 37104-8.

M'CORMICK, Mr. PATRICK.

See pp. 73-5.

HOLDINGS OF WITNESS.

Witness held thirty acres and eighteen acres; present rent was £7 2s. and £5 14s. 4d., valuation £11 and £5 2s., rent being below valuation, 37112.

CUSHENDELL DISTRICT.

Cushenke ran for seven miles along north coast of County Antrim, contained twenty-three townlands, and constituted electoral division in Ballycastle Rural District; valuation was £1,873 11s., population 481; district was mountainous, upper portion devoted to sheep-farming and lower to cultivation; land under

M'CORMICK, Mr. PATRICK.—continued.

plough was very steep and had to be done single furrow; reaping machines could not be used, and difficulty of mowing and taking off crop was great; it was about nine miles from Ballycastle, nearest railway station; people were greatly in need of help from Congested Districts Board or some other body; people were getting tired of trying to force a living from the land, and young people did not want to stay on land; holdings were large enough to be economic, but were in remote district, and had many natural disadvantages, so there was not sufficient capital to justify advantage being taken of scheme of Department of Agriculture, 37113a.

CATTLE BREEDING.

Galloways rarely turned out good cows; cross-bred bull would suit district better; Department of Agriculture did not encourage use of any but pure-bred bulls; if stock could be improved introduction of bull which would suit conditions, stores might be greatly improved, trade with Great Britain improved, and craving for Canadian cattle removed; if latter were introduced, small mountain farmer would disappear, and Ireland would become, despite every effort, a series of ranches; sheep also needed new blood, 37113b.—Farmers generally sold stores after two years, 37113.—They kept them inside in winter and fed them on green crops and turnips, 37113-3.

HORSE BREEDING.

Schemes of Department had not been a success; influence of South of Ireland breeders who were on Advisory Committee of Department was in favour of breeding hunters, which was right for the South, but hackney breeding suited North better; Department should give more heed to wishes of influential minority; names of Cushenke were too small to be selected and too big to be classed as ponies to come under Cushendall Pony Scheme, 37113c.—Unsuccessful thoroughbreds had been introduced by Committee of Department of Agriculture, 37113.—Animals might have done for good level land, with good grass, but they were not suited to brans of Cushenke, 37113-6.—Local Agricultural Committee had been in favour of keeping hackney supplied by Department, but he was taken away, 37113.

POULTRY.

Poultry were kept in fair numbers, but there was difficulty in getting produce on market, 37113e.

ROADS.

There was one road running through district, and it was a bad one, with very steep gradients; 5 cwt. was most a horse could take over it; carting to and from market was very difficult, 37113f.—There were only minor roads, 37114.—Under Grand Jury system people only had to pay what district cost, 37115.—An entirely new road would be needed, following for short distance one in existence, 37114-5.

CROPS.

Beans and flax used to be grown, but former dropped out on account of fall in price, and bean aphid attacked latter; new price of yarn had so much increased that spinners ought to pay better prices, but they would not, 37112a.—If district were scheduled, witness suggested that people should be taken into confidence of Board, and that their wishes should not be overruled, as had so often been done in the past, 37112a.

TAXATION.

Cushenke had much to complain of in matter of taxation, they were forced into scheme of main roads by which district lost about £200 a year, Local Government Board had forced them to contribute towards upkeep of Belfast roads; Cushenke was also included in area of charge for sanitary expense at Cushendall, costing 4½d. in pound for 35 years, 37112b.—This was for Cushendall sewerage, 37112.—There had been Local Government Inquiry, and all districts outside Cushendall had signed protest, 37112-70.

M'CORMICK, Mr. PATRICK—continued.

STOCK ON FARMS.

Witness kept three cows, one horse, and fifty sheep, which grazed in commonage on mountain, 37126-9.—Calves were sold at six months old, 37131.—Fairs were held at Cusheadall, Cusheadin, Gleasart, and Waterfoot, 37134.—Stock then taken to Ballymena, Ballycastle, Larne, and Ballymoney, 37135.—It would not pay to sell stock as yearlings, it paid better to sell them as two-year-olds, 37142-3-6.—Good two-year-old would sell for £6, yearling £3, 37147-8.—Upland grazing enabled stock to be kept for two years, 37150-61.

LAND.

People were leaving as selling farms, 37150.—Small farms of 86 rent had sold for £120, 37153.—Man who bought wanted to add to his own holding, 37152-4.—When and was ploughed land was turned down a foot; it had to be kept up as well as possible, 37161-3.

O'BOYLE, Mr. JOHN.

See p. 75.

GRAZING RIGHTS.

Witness occupied, with others, 145 acres of grazing; he wanted that Commission to assign 54 acres to him exclusively, and he would pay expenses; as the other holders did not agree, Commission could do nothing, 37177-81.

M'AULEY, Mr. BERNARD.

See pp. 75-6.

ROADS.

Good road was a necessity, 37182A.—It was needed from Tollymoreville to Mallards, and would benefit eighteen tenants, 37183.—About a mile and a half should be made, 37184.—People would be able to till land better, as now manure had to be carried on their backs, 37185.—They had also to carry turf home, 37186.—If Commission assisted, Council would take it up, 37188.—If some body advanced portion of expenses, Rural District Council would probably find balance, 37190.—People were without road, even though they were paying for roads all over country, and sanitary expenses of Cusheadall, 37194-7.

TRANSPORT FACILITIES.

Farmers were at great loss owing to want of transport facilities, 37192A, 37201.—Improvement of roads and railways was great question, 37202-3.

INDUSTRIES.

Industries such as weaving should be revived, 37197.—Commission had no power to give help, and could not recommend industries unless there were chance of their being self-supporting, 37198-200.

O'NEILL, Mr. T. J.

See p. 76.

ROADS AND PIERS.

Road in Cusheadall was very poor; new road could be made from Cusheadin or Marrow Point, as far as the hill, about seven miles in length, 37205.—It had not been brought before District Council, 37206, 37213.—Cost would be £6,000, 37207.—Council would not go in for such large expenditure without assistance, 37208.—Recommendation of grants lay beyond province of Commission, 37209-10.—That road would benefit 150 people directly, 37212.—And 500 or 600 altogether; there would be no heavy cutting, 37215.—£6,000 was not great cost for a new road, 37217.—Cusheadall people suggested new pier; they wanted line railway extended down to it, 37218-20.

M'CLOY, Mr. ALEXANDER.

See pp. 76-7.

Witness was farmer; he had 32 statute acres; rent was £7 10s., valuation, £23 on land, and £2 10s. on buildings, 37223.

TRANSPORT FACILITIES.

Markets were inconvenient on account of bad roads, 37224.—Witness supported evidence already given, 37225.—Fallowacres road was very poor, and people were badly handicapped in bringing produce to market, 37226-7.—Ballymena was nearest market, twenty miles away, to which it was very difficult to take produce, 37230-1.

LAND PURCHASE.

Two townlands, Turhilly and Grung, were purchased about two years previously, at twenty-four years' purchase of second term judicial rents, 37232.—Under Act of 1903, 37232.—Price was too high, 37233.—On Glanville Estate Captain Dixon had proposed sale at reduction of 4s. in the £; tenants wanted 4s. 6d.; offer had not been accepted, 37234.—There were between ninety and a hundred tenants, with average of £30 valuation, 37235-6.—Smallest holding would be about six acres, 37237.—Witness had no mountain commonage along with his thirty-two acres, 37239.

CATTLE SALES.

Cattle were sold at all ages, whenever there was likely to be most profit, 37241.—Witness's experience was that they were chiefly sold at two or three years, 37241.—They were fed in winter on hay, straw, turnips and cabbage, less turnips than other things, and no mangels, 37242-3.—Sale at six months would mean very small price, and there would be no manure for farms, 37247-8.

M'CAMERIDGE, Mr. J.

See pp. 77-8.

HOLDING OF WITNESS.

Witness's farm was twenty-six statute acres; rent was £14 4s.; valuation £29 10s., 37253.—All could be tilled, and was occasionally, in rotation of crops, 37252-3.

RAILWAY.

Farmers lost greatly through lack of railway to Cusheadall and proper harbours, 37264.—Small farmer lost more in proportion than large, as he had no market for produce, 37265.—Flax and butter had to be taken to Ballymena, and two days were lost, 37266.—Carting was cheaper than taking to nearest railway station, 37268.—If railway were extended buyers would come and make market for butter and flax, 37269.—Existing railway was of no service, 37260-2.

BUTTER-MAKING.

Farmers made their own butter in hills, as there was no creamery and no dairy, 37263.—Witness kept four cows, 37264.—And churned twice a week in summer, 37265.—Ordinary price was 3d. per lb., sometimes 10d., 37266.—If it could be sold fresh the price would be better; but there was no market for fresh butter; if Cusheadall-road were made better prices could be obtained from tourists, 37267-8.

ROADS.

Tourists would come to Cusheadall if there were road, 37268.—At present many went to Ballycastle, but did not go on; also to Portrush; but, as there was no road, they did not come on, 37271-3.—Scenery was good, but place was inaccessible, 37272-5.

M'CAMBRIDGE, Mr. J.—continued.

Stock.

Stock should sell as yearlings if properly fed, 37276-7.—Some who had grazing lands kept them to sell as two-year-olds, 37279.—Yearlings fetched £3 10s., two-year-olds £5 or £6, 37280-1.—A two-year-old was really six quarters, not two years old, 37282.—Grass feeding was more depended on than home feeding, 37284.—Calves improved greatly on grass, so it was best to sell them at six quarters, 37285.—Prosperity of small holders depended on price of yearlings or eighteen months old heaves; if market for these was destroyed small holders would be enormously injured, 37288-9.—They were now bought by Ballymena buyers at Cushendall, and sold again to graziers, 37290-1.—They were probably not sold to English or Scotch buyers until they were three years old, 37292.

DE LURGY, Mr. HUGH.

See p. 78.

NEED FOR RAILWAYS.

It was difficult to let houses in Cushendall during summer months, owing to poor travelling facilities, 37297.—Beliant business-men would not send their families there, as they themselves could not run down to spend week-ends with them, 37299.—Witness wished to support evidence in favour of the line from Glenariff to Cushendall, in order to develop house-letting and building there, 37298-300.—Sir Daniel Dixon had done something to develop building during last few years, 37301.

M'NEILL, Captain JAMES.

See pp. 78-9.

Witness had thirty-six acres in one holding and fifteen acres in another; rent of first £17 18s., of second £8 13s.; valuations £44 and £15 10s., 37303.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage of Glenariff River was very important; formerly it had been drained, but now had silted up again, as no arrangement had been made for keeping it clear, 37304-7.—It should be cleared again, and some provision made for keeping it clear, 37308-12.—Thirty-six tenants would profit by it; at present they lost about £300 a year, as arable land was affected, 37313.—Witness owned his own land and kept it in meadow, 37314.—Cost of drain would be about £1,000, 37316.—Side drain was occasionally cleared out by tenants, but river was too much for them, 37316.—Landlords spent £3,450 in 1852, and £400 in 1875; since then nothing has been done, 37321.—Matter was brought before Drainage Commission, 37323, 37325.

GRAHAM, Mr. JAMES.

See p. 79.

DRAINAGE.

Witness held 30 acres, rent £21, valuation £31 12s., 37326.—Injury was caused by flooding of river, 36 holdings were injured with annual loss of £300, 37327-8.—£1,000 would be needed, 37329.—After work was done arrangement should be made for keeping it clear, 37330-1.—Maintenance rate should be struck, or small amount added to annuities, 37332-4.—It went wrong eighteen years ago, 37337.—As result of large flood and subsequent cutting for making walks, 37338.

BLACK, Mr. DENIS.

See pp. 79-80.

CONGESTION.

Witness had 54 acres, rent was £18 10s., valuation £28 12s., 37340.—Glenam electoral division contained twenty-three townlands, with sixty-eight

BLACK, Mr. DENIS.—continued.

holdings, of which twenty-seven were less than 25 and thirty less than 210, 37341.—Proportion of land fit for cultivation was small, only 225 acres were under cultivation, on average of three acres per holding, seventy-nine acres had gone out of cultivation within past six years, land was infertile, only fit for grazing sheep, 37342.—Witness knew of no local remedy for relief of congestion, there were only two large farms in neighbourhood, 37345-6.—Witness only wanted to bring condition of people before Commission, 37349-51.

SHEEP.

Sheep died in numbers in winter from exposure, 37343.—There was no road accommodation for fifteen families, 37344.

MURRAY, Mr. PATRICK.

See p. 80.

CONGESTION.

Witness rented seventy acres for £5 4s. 6d., at valuation of £10 5s., 37354.—Glens of Antrim was about poorest district in Ireland, worse than Connemara and West Donegal, 37355-9.

ROAD.

Road should be run on south-east side of Glen where there was no road at all, there was dangerous mountain and river to cross, 37360.—Length would be about four miles, 37362.—Necessity for road had not been brought before District Council, 37363.

STOCK ON FARM.

Witness kept two cows and a horse, 37364.—Cows did not calve every year, 37365.—Milk was all consumed by family, 37367.—Only two acres were ploughed out of seventy, as all had to be done by spade labour, 37368.—A few cattle were taken, some years perhaps twenty, others only fifteen or twelve 37370-2.—Cattle could not live on this land, 37373.—Eighteen pence per head was paid for sheep, 37375.—All the corn witness grew went to feeding home and was not sufficient, 37381.—Three acres more ought to be cultivated, but it would not pay him to do it, 37382.—Calves had to be sold at all ages, as witness needed money, 37384-5.

M'KINLEY, Mr. DENIS.

See p. 80.

NEED FOR ROADS.

District was very poor, which was partly caused by want of road accommodation, as an illustration tenders for labourers' cottages had been £475 as against £205 in other districts owing to difficulty of getting material to district, what road there was was in very dangerous condition and unless prompt action was taken by scheduling district, or by some other remedy there would be no population left, 37386-7.—Road should begin at Cushendall and end at Ballyvoy, 37388.

SPIERS, Mr. JAMES.

See p. 81.

FISHING.

Witness fished with draft nets and got herrings in December, and sometimes flat fish, whiting, 37389-5.—Boat was open boat that took four hands, 37390.—Fishing could be developed if there were accommodation for keeping boats, witness had lost much of ten tons for want of shelter, 37390-401.—All fishing was on a very small scale, 37402.—Scotch fishermen did not come on account of want of accommodation, 37403.—Numbers would stay at home if fishing industry were developed, 37412.

FINLAY, Mr. MAURICE.

See p. 81.

FISHING AND HARBOUR ACCOMMODATION.

Witness fished for all kinds of fish in all seasons of the year from 20-foot open boat, larger boat could not be used for want of harbour accommodation, 37413. —Herring abundant round that coast, but they could not be properly caught as small boats could not go out far enough, 37415-8.—Lobsters were plentiful, 37419.—Unless harbour accommodation were provided fishing could not be developed, as no one would buy boats simply to have them smashed, 37420-2.—Fish was as plentiful as ever, except salmon, which was not properly protected, 37424-5.—There was salmon fishing on Glendalough River, 37426.

TREANOR, Mr. PATRICK.

See pp. 83-4.

NATURE OF LAND.

Witness was well acquainted with country from Pomeroy to Broomfield, and Greenacree, and neighbourhood of Carrigrohane, 37432.—Quality of land was uniformly poor, some holdings fairly large, many very small; occupiers hampered by lack of labour and capital, 37433, 37463.

AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION SCHEMES.

Agricultural and technical itinerant instruction schemes of County Committee had been working in district with beneficial results, 37435.—Lectures and personal visits of instructors had encouraged improvement, great deal of useful information had been given to farmers about seeds, manures, drainage, and improved methods of feeding stock, etc., 37433.—People had been brought into touch with work and measures of Department, 37435.—Witness specially referred to agricultural and horticultural work and bee-keeping work was in a pioneer stage and distinctly difficult of access, 37435-6.—Experimental plots served as a good object lesson to people in immediate vicinity, 37433.—Families offered to small farmers and cottagers tended to increase interest in appearance of their homes, 37433.—Cultivation of vegetables increasing, 37433.

POULTRY.

Considerable increase and improvement in poultry industry due to establishment of six stations and turkey and geese stations, etc., 37433, 37435, 37433.—Classes of instruction held in Pomeroy on fattening poultry and preparing for market were well attended and resulted in great improvement, 37433-4.—Eggs were brought to Cookstown for market, 37437.—Many small farmers dependent on produce of fowls, 37437, 37440.

LIVE STOCK SCHEMES.

Premium bulls and boars located at Pomeroy, Greenacree, Doona, and other places had improved class of stock, 37441, 37443.—More animals could be profitably placed if funds permitted, 37441.—Schemes had been in operation about four years, 37442.—Every year more farmers were taking advantage of it, 37444.—Better prices obtained for young stock, 37445, 37459.—Age when sold from six quarters to two years old, 37445.—Average price for a six-quarters heifer, £10, 37451.—Usually bought by jobbers and shipped to English and Scotch markets, or by large farmers and put on to grass, 37457-8.—Farmer from Pomeroy shipped fifty to sixty head every month, 37449.—Witness would be glad if all the people could avail themselves of these schemes, but some were too poor to derive any benefit, 37454-5.—Cottage and small farm prize schemes was a stimulus and encouragement to poorer districts, advice given by judge on inspection of holdings often helpful to competitors, 37441.

POTATO-SPRINKLING.

People in Pomeroy district were at first reluctant to spray, until they saw the advantage of it, the whole country side was now sprayed, there would be no potatoes but for the spraying, 37457-62.

TREANOR, Mr. PATRICK—continued.

IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES.

Districts round Pomeroy were difficult of access, and people had little or no capital to improve holdings and could not get labour; witness suggested that special schemes should be tried in poorer districts, 37462.—Present system applicable if due regard was paid to needs of areas smaller than a rural district, 37463, 37466.—State aid might be given, 37466-70.—Money advanced at low rate of interest to poorer farmers, 37464, 37472.—Land was given as security, 37465.—Educational system of self-help established, scheme might be costly but considerable improvement would be effected in small area, 37467.—Emigration of young people prevented if encouragement were given at home, 37470, 37492.

SPADE LABOUR.

Many holdings were too hilly to be worked by a horse, 37476.—In a twenty-acre holding of arable land probably only half could be worked by spade, 37476-6, 37484.—Young men who used to do spade labour had emigrated, 37480, 37479, 37485.—No inducement for them at home, 37481-3, 37489, 37491.—For want of labour hilly land was now in grass and of very poor quality, 37477.—Wages had gone up during last thirty years, and no farmers could now afford to pay such wages as would induce young men to remain in Ireland, 37480, 37486-90.

MCANN, Rev. THOMAS.

See pp. 84-7.

QUESTION OF IMPROVEMENT IN BREED OF CATTLE AND POULTRY.

No improvement had resulted in Kildress district from working of Agricultural Department, 37499.—Shepherds were supplied but that class of cattle was unsuitable for mountainous districts; premium bull died after being about a year in locality, and had not been replaced, 37500-10.—Department had supplied fowls for last four years but it took considerable time to effect improvement, and so far none was visible, 37509, 37511-3.—Fowls usually supplied to better-off farmers, 37516-7.—No noticeable improvement in district from itinerant instruction, 37518.

DESCRIPTION OF KILDRESS DISTRICT.

District of Upper Kildress formed a wild belt of country between Cookstown and Stralane, part of it in Dungannon Union, 37494-6, 37519-20.—Total area 7,000 acres, a great part of the land was mountainous and unfit for cultivation, 37521.—So called arable land was largely reclaimed bog, and with exception of two townlands was poor and unproductive, 37519.

GRAZING.

Grazing land was rough, with soft marshes between hills, which were dangerous for cattle, and the mountains were too cold in winter, considering across the number of sheep kept was very small, 37521-2, 37522, 37526.—Notwithstanding good prices sheep fetched at present time it did not pay to keep them, 37527.—Land had been bought as a speculation for grazing sheep but had changed hands several times; no one could make it pay, 37528-5.

VALUATION OF HOLDINGS.

There were over 700 rated properties in Kildress district; 67 per cent. were £10 valuation and over, 34 6 per cent. were £6 valuation and under, average valuation £4 13s.; average valuation per acre 4s. 1d., 37528.—In Kildress electoral division 86 per cent. of holdings were under £10 valuation, valuation per head £1 2s. 1d., 37529.—In Beaghmore 87 per cent. of holdings were under £10 valuation, valuation per head £1 10s. 6d., 37530-1.

CONDITION OF LAND AND PEOPLE.

Parties were usually not more than twelve acres in extent, with soil so poor that basic manures could not be provided; farming the only industry in district, 37531.—Numbers of farms unoccupied and uncultivated; young people emigrated, and farmers

M'CANN, Rev. THOMAS—continued.

had gone to England and Scotland, but remained nominally tenants if they paid up arrears of rent, 37532-3, 37540.—In some cases farms were abandoned, tenant evicted by landlord and land taken over by person paying up arrears, 37539.—On farms were let for grazing for a small sum to a neighbouring tenant, rent then often remained unpaid, 37543-4.—Applications for abandoned farms sometimes made to landlords by neighbouring tenants, 37545-8.—Two-thirds of population dependent on money sent by relations from America and elsewhere, or obliged to hire out children, 37548.—Boys employed herding in summer months at ten years of age; boys and girls hired out from fourteen years of age, 37549-51.—People were industrious and anxious to co-operate in any scheme for their improvement; under present conditions if they were sent free two-thirds of people could not make a decent living off the land, 37552.—Horses could not be used on small holdings, many farms could not be worked by a horse, 37550.—Formation of a Parish Committee had been suggested, 37557.

EDUCATION.

School attendance satisfactory, children attended school up to fourteen years of age, 37559-6.—Compulsory Education Act had been in force about two years in rural district of Kildress and worked well, 37556-60.

POTATO CROP.

Potatoes were principal food of people; effects of bad season were disastrous, 37561.—Potatoes were sprayed last year but crop was very bad in mountain district, potatoes unfit for human use, 37562-7.

TURF.

Turf abundant in poor districts, 37571-2.—In many instances bog was within area of holding but on some estates tenants were not allowed to cut turf for sale, 37573.—Farmers frequently carried turf nine miles to Cooktown and sold it for 2s. 6d. or 2s. a load in order to make a little money, 37567-8.

LAND PURCHASE.

Only two townlands had come to an agreement with landlord to buy out under Ashbourne Act, and these witnesses thought had bought too dear, 37575, 37581.—Price paid was 24 years' purchase on second term rents, plus bonus, 37576-7.—Average price in County Tyrone under former Acts was 17 years' purchase, 37578-8.

DERELICT FARMS.

No derelict farms on these townlands, 37585-6.—They were mostly situated in townland of Killeenan, 37587.—Considerable streams of rent owing on derelict farms, 37580.—But poor tenants usually managed to pay their rent; they received money from their sons who had settled permanently in England or Scotland, 37581-3.—Negotiations for purchase of land were going on, farmers offered 22 and 22½ years' purchase but landlords would not come to terms, 37588-8.

DRAINAGE.

Computed Districts Board could do a great deal for small farmers by giving help towards draining land, providing suitable measures and lime; last season, years ago, was supplied free by landlord and land then was more productive, 37594.—Field drainage required not a large scheme of arterial drainage, 37596-7, 37600-2.—Witness did not advise farmers to undertake responsibility of a loan as they had no means of repaying, 37598.

INDUSTRY.

Board might start a woollen industry or factory in district which witness thought would be self-supporting in time, 37594, 37616-8.—Adjoining districts of Broughbeg and Greenacree were good for sheep and would help to supply wool, 37623.—Excellent water power available; there were the rivers Kildress and Loughbeg, 37624-5.

M'CANN, Rev. THOMAS—continued.

RAILWAY.

Construction of light railway between Cooktown and Strabane suggested to open up hilly district, 37487, 37603-6.—Great advantage to farmers as they would have facilities for reaching nearest town of Cooktown, 37608.—Proposed termini Cooktown, and either Doneganna or Strabane, 37607.

ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS.

No grass lands in Kildress district available for enlargement of holdings, 37610, 37620-1.—Witness suggested improvement in holding itself, 37620.—Condition might be bettered, 37611.—But considering low valuation it would be difficult with greatest improvement to make holdings economic, 37612-4.—Unless people had some industry or factory to supplement what they could make from the land, 37615.

M'GEOWN, Rev. MICHAEL.

See pp. 37-9.

DESCRIPTION OF LAND.

Witness recommended scheduling parish of Greenacree as a congested area, 37628-9.—Poverty of district shown by farmers carting turf for sale to Cooktown; only produce of land they had for sale, 37633.—Whole parish much exposed to storms; mean height 700 feet above sea level, 37630.—Land rough and mountainous, wet and marshy in places, drainage absolutely necessary; soil unproductive unless well limed; no other measure so suitable; farmers who kept no horse had great difficulty in fetching lime from Cooktown, 37630.—Geological formation of Greenacree probably whinstone with a blue sub-soil, 37631-2.—Roads very hilly; serious obstacles to cultivation of farms, 37633.—Land had been largely reclaimed from rough mountain sides, 37635.—Unless kept under cultivation it returned to its original state, which was the tendency of all reclaimed land, 37635-41.

VALUATION OF HOLDINGS.

Government valuation was about 2s. per acre, including valuation of houses; holdings small and not self-supporting, 37642.—Not an economic farm in whole parish, 37643.—Instance of man in Broughbeg district with holding of 60 acres unable to support himself and family without hiring out children, 37642-3, 37676.—429 holdings in parish; only 48 were of £10 valuation and over, and few of these were self-supporting, 37643, 37677-80.—Six holdings were under £10 valuation, and 25 holdings were valued at £2 and under, 37677-8.—108 holdings were not over 20 acres in area, and about 14 holdings were not over 10 acres, 37677.—In townland of Broughbeg 10 per cent. was arable land, and about 15 per cent. in the rest of parish, 37677.

DIET AND MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD.

Modes of living very simple; potatoes and oats main support of people; when crops failed they were almost reduced to starvation, 37643.—No industries to fall back upon, 37643.—People tried to live on their small holdings, 37678.—Young people emigrated to earn a livelihood, 37643.—They sent home money to pay rent and help support younger children, who were often hired out at eight years of age, 37643.—People were industrious and anxious to advance themselves, 37643.

CREAMERY.

Creamery was started by witness with co-operation of people and some assistance from Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, 37643, 37678.—People gave their labour and collected stones for building, 37643.—Class of cattle were hardy and able to live on poor pasture, 37648.—Before creamery was established people were handicapped for want of accommodation, etc.; butter was sold at 5d. and 6d. a pound; present price 1s., 37643, 37647, 37677-8.—Last year creamery ranked fourth in Ireland, 37643, 37648.—Turnover was £5,000, 37643-4.—Less 10 per cent. for working expenses, 37643-4.—Each house made 81s on an average, 37643-4.—Sufficient butter and milk saved for

M'GEOWN, Rev. MICHAEL—continued.

consumption of family, 37669-60.—Separated milk used for feeding calves, 37661.—Separated milk plus linseed meal equivalent to ordinary milk for feeding calves when they were four weeks old; witness was not of opinion that system of creameries caused deterioration in cattle, 37658-9.—Farmers obliged to till to provide fodder for cattle in winter; witness had never found creameries lowered amount of tillage, 37670-1.—Supply of milk kept up during winter, 37672.—But green crops for winter feeding were insufficient owing to poor quality of soil; only 10 to 15 per cent. of land cultivated, 37673.

PARISH COMMITTEE.

Witness was chairman of Inishowen Parish Committee for a few months, and suggested that Commission should place parish of Greenacres under Congested Districts Board; a great deal might be done by Board to ameliorate condition of people through a Parish Committee, 37675.—Congested Districts Board and Irish Agricultural Organisation Society the only two bodies who had done much for poor of Ireland, 37676.

DEBT.

Some people were a good deal in debt to shopkeepers, 37678.—Agricultural Bank had been established, and people were improving and beginning to make cash payments, 37680-1.

MORRIS, Mr. SOLOMON.

See pp. 92-2.

CONGESTION OF HOUSES.

Dwellings in Greenacres district needed improvements which could be effected with little expense; sites required draining, windows enlarging, &c.; in some cases another room added, 37681.—Witness had known families of thirteen or fourteen people dwelling in two rooms, 37683-5.—Calves sometimes brought into houses, but not pigs, 37686, 37686-8.—Manure heaps should be removed further from dwellings and cess-pools drained and closed, 37689.—Witness was not aware that sanitary officers had done anything in the matter in this district, 37700-4.—Sanitary conditions were well looked after in towns; if Greenacres was placed under Congested Districts Board and people encouraged they would remove manure heaps themselves in order to get a grant from Parish Committee, 37705-7.—Witness also suggested houses being lime-washed every year, and occasionally disinfected, 37709.

INSPECTION OF OUTHOUSES, DAIRIES.

Improvement required in outhouses more than in dwellings; great mortality among animals due to inadequate shelter in winter and want of expert assistance, 37706, 37716.—Appointment of resident veterinary surgeon as inspector of outhouses and dairies suggested, whose duty would be to limit on cleanliness, suggest improvements, and see that they were carried out, 37709, 37711-4, 37717-3.—Salary of officer to be contributed partly by locality and partly by Congested Districts Board, supplemented by fees for special cases, 37718.

DRAINAGE.

Crops would be much improved if land was properly drained, and locality would be much healthier; witness suggested that financial assistance should be given for work, 37718-23.—Drainage was first step towards reclamation, and could be effected cheaply in Greenacres, 37722.—In some places drains were stopped, 37719-20.—Due partly to ignorance of small farmers and also to lack of means, 37724-7.—Land would pay cost of drainage, and people should be encouraged to try it, 37725-31.

AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION—PRIZE SCHEME.

General improvement needed in agricultural system; people would carry out work if they were instructed and advised by Parish Committee, 37724-6.—Lectures from itinerant instructors had not much effect, frequently lecturers had no knowledge of particular wants of locality; competent resident instructor

MORRIS, Mr. SOLOMON—continued.

for working a farm himself would be a great advantage, 37730-45.—Prize given for reclamation of mountain land would stimulate people, but grant to cover part of expenditure would be better, 37731-3.

IRISH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

People were much indebted to Irish Agricultural Organisation Society for expert assistance in erection of cessaries; Agricultural Department had also assisted, 37747.

PARISH COMMITTEE.

Witness was of opinion that improvements would be carried through without much difficulty if Parish Committee were formed in connection with Congested Districts Board, 37747.—People of Greenacres were industrious and anxious to co-operate in any scheme for their improvement, 37747.—Witness hoped something would be done for these people to keep them at home and prevent emigration, 37747.

ARABLES.

Large amount of arable on several estates which had accumulated since the early eighties; farmers found it difficult to get bare necessaries, 37747.—Land in Greenacres mostly held by tenants under judicial second term rents, 37748-50.

LIVE STOCK.

Farmers sometimes obliged to sell stock at six to eighteen months; when possible they kept them till two or three years old; great difficulty was to get stuff for winter feeding, 37751-3, 37759-60.—Stock usually sold to graziers for fattening, sometimes shipped to England and Scotland, 37754-5.—Farming the only industry in Greenacres, 37755-7.—Coal was worked at Coalisland, twelve miles away, 37758.

STACK, Rev. T. I. F.

See pp. 92-6.

POSITION OF DRUMQUIN.

Drumquin village situated in parish of Longfield, County Tyrone, 9 miles west of Omagh, 10 miles south-west of Newtownswain, 16 miles north-east of Lower Lough Erne, 37763.—One electoral division in Omagh Union and another in Castlederg Union, 37768.

MINERALS.

District contained considerable undeveloped mineral wealth; limestone, freestone, and seams of coal found on western side; indications of iron and mica; garnets found in mountain streams, 37765.—Surveys had been made for construction of canal from Lough Erne to Drumquin, 37766-7.

ACREAGE AND VALUATION.

Rents lower than valuation; average rating worked out low; valuation made by Griffith's Commissioners too high; Commissioners probably influenced by temporary improvement in prices of agricultural produce, 37765.—Total acreage of parish 38,466 acres; valuation £8,639; average valuation 4s. 1d. per acre; many townlands only averaged 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per acre; for example, Moenbog had an acreage of 461 acres; valuation 246 10s.; average 1s. per acre; Meenadown, acreage 731 acres; valuation £36 5s.; average 1s. per acre; Carrickraig, acreage 543 acres; valuation £21 10s.; average valuation 9d. per acre; Tully, acreage 747 acres; valuation £20; average valuation 5d. per acre; Ally, acreage 1,144 acres; valuation £22; average valuation 4½d. per acre, 37768.

DECLINE IN POPULATION.

In 1871 Drumquin had over 400 inhabitants; at last Census number was reduced to 250; Census returns for whole parish showed a loss of 1,418 in two decades, being a decline of 26 per cent., 37768, 37769.—Decline due to decay of agriculture and want

STACK, REV. T. L. F.—continued.

of permanent industries, 37769, 37776.—District entirely agricultural, land half mountain and half bog, incapable of supporting people dependent on it, 37764, 37769.

Dairy.

Opinion that only 20 per cent. of the people were in solvent condition, 37769, 37792.—Some received money from friends abroad; women had to earn money by sewing, 37769.—Credit system largely used, 37772.—Money borrowed on bills from local banks removed over and over again at six or eight per cent., 37769-71.—Large amount still owing to Drainage Loan Fund Society, 37772.

CAUSES OF DEPRIVITY IN AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY.

Trade and agricultural industry greatly handicapped in Drumquin for want of transit facilities; nearest railway station at Omagh nine miles away, 37763-4.—Drumquin crossing nearest point railway touched, 37764.—Drumquin was of considerable importance in last century; situated on coach route between Londonderry and Enniskillen; markets and fairs were prosperous; local industries, tanning leather and small woollen mills; since advent of railway population had steadily declined, 37764.—Railway rates excessive; witness wished to emphasize the fact he pointed out to Viceregal Commissioner—viz., rates to Omagh were four times rate per ton to terminal stations like Londonderry and Belfast; price of corn worked out 4-4 times per ton mile greater from Derry to Omagh than from Derry to Dublin, 37773-5.—Reduction of 50 per cent. in charges of railway companies could easily be made, and would mean 5s. per statute acre all round to Irish farmers, 37794.—Witness suggested State buying out shareholders and railways being worked by central department; if that was too expensive Irish Free scheme of motor communication might be tried as in England, 37776.—Free trade largely responsible for decay of agriculture, 37800-4.—Also the enormous taxation of England, 37814-5, 37820-1.—Witness did not admit that system of landlordism had had a prejudicial effect, 37814, 37819-9.—Intemperate habits of people a contributory cause to decay, 37802.—Thirteen millions of money spent annually on alcohol; indirect less two or three times that sum, 37802.—Witness was not sure of actual amount of liquor consumed in Ireland, but more alcohol was consumed in Denmark than in United Kingdom, 37825.—Temperance cause had improved generally over Ireland, but there was not much improvement in Drumquin, 37823-6, 37827-3.

IMPROVEMENTS IN AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY PROPOSED.

Development of agricultural industry would be means of rescuing Ireland, 37778.—Thirty years ago Denmark was practically bankrupt, 37778.—Now it ranked as fourth richest country per head of population in the world, 37778-8.—Present prosperity due to development of agriculture; climate and soil of Ireland 25 per cent. better than that of Denmark, 37779.—Witness suggested starting a model Danish farm in Drumquin, instruction being given concurrently in improved methods of agriculture, 37779-81, 37784.—Farms could be purchased economically, and would produce better price when sold, 37779-80.—Danish farmers were highly trained; average man was able to support his family in comfort, and save £50 a year, 37781.—Yield of milk in Denmark had largely increased owing to magnificent system of inspection, 37781.—Bad cows weeded out; proper bulls kept; breed of cattle improved; witness suggested Government inspection of dairies and cow-sheds on similar lines in Ireland, 37781, 37794.—Prosperity of Denmark in great measure due to its system of protection; tariffs not very high; small duties on manufactured articles; articles of food-stuffs admitted free, 37782-4.—Protection badly needed in Ireland, 37783.

SCHOOLING CONGESTED AREAS.

Witness suggested that parishes of East and West Longfield should be scheduled as congested, and put under protection of Congested Districts Board, 37777,

STACK, REV. T. L. F.—continued.

37785-7.—District was not quite so badly off as scheduled area of Kilgarren, County Kerry; standard of living had improved during last twenty years, but under present conditions district was not able to support population, 37786-93.

IMPROVEMENTS SUGGESTED.

Re-afforestation a great advantage; would provide employment, improve climate, and give valuable produce, 37795.—Efficient control of rivers should be obtained, and lakes held up to prevent disastrous floods, which did enormous amount of damage, 37796-8.—Holdings under £4 valuation might be made economic if worked on Danish system, 37805.—Help being given to people to form co-operative societies and dairies, 37806.—Witness was owner of a creamery originally started as a co-operative auxiliary creamery under Irish Agricultural Organisation Society; difficulties arose with regard to machinery; law suit threatened, so witness purchased concern, and it was now converted into central creamery, with three auxiliaries of its own; present turnover about £12,000, 37807-13.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

An attempt should be made to ascertain actual capabilities of district; geological survey not an accurate guide; witness suggested holes being sunk for several hundred feet, with good machinery; twenty years ago geological survey in India reported no coal was to be found; engineers obtained permission to try for coal, and six million tons of coal had been raised within last few years, 37794.

DONNELLY, MR. ALEXANDER.

See p. 95.

TRANSIT FACILITIES.

Wished to draw attention to proposed railway from Cookstown to Donemana, 37833.—As a solicitor witness represented districts of Kildare, Greenacres, Rosaley, Gortin, and Donemana, one continuous district extending to borders of County Derry and down to Mountfield, 37833.—Very exposed locality, ragged and mountainous, 37833.—Transit facilities badly needed, 37833-2.—No means of rapid communication; Great Northern Railway skirted extreme borders of district, 37833.—Farmers had great difficulty in bringing produce to market owing to hilly nature of country, 37833.—Sixteen miles by road to Omagh, Strabane, or Cookstown, 37833.—Difficult also to obtain lime, which was essential for reclamation of land; no lime in central districts; farmers had to fetch it from Cookstown, 37833.

ABANDONED FARMS.

Several families in Gortin district could not make a living on farms; people emigrated to America and left holdings in hands of auctioneer to be set for grazing on eleven months' system; money used to pay rent and taxes; in some cases old people left on farms and received money from America for rent, 37838-7.

QUALITY OF LAND.

Land of extremely coarse quality, difficult to work; question whether improvement in land would be sufficient to repay outlay necessary for drainage, etc., 37838-41.

M'ALEER, MR. PATRICK.

See pp. 95-6.

ROADS.

Witness recommended construction of good common roads to bogs; farmers unable to get a sufficient quantity of turf in wet season; much discontent caused by insufficient supply of fuel, 37843.—County roads also in bad condition, duty of County Council to look after them, but nothing had been done; money offered for repairs not sufficient to induce contractor to undertake work, 37845.

M'ALEER, Mr. PATRICK—continued.

TREE PLANTING.

Large tracts of land incapable of reclamation which might be planted with suitable trees to form shelter belts; hedges planted on holdings, etc., would improve appearance of country, and eventually become source of profit to owner; land was much exposed to storms in winter and spring; 300 feet above sea level; crops suffered for want of shelter, 37945-51.

INDUSTRIES.

Witness suggested introduction of up-to-date hand-looms; there was a large quantity of wool available, 20,000 sheep within radius of 6 or 8 miles, 37883, 37884.—Hosiery could be manufactured; ready sale would be found, as influential people interested themselves in sale of such goods, 37882, 37886-7.—Lace-making could be introduced and would provide employment for young girls now obliged to emigrate; properly qualified instructor could be obtained for small amount; great benefit conferred on Droichead, County Tyrone, by introduction of lace-making.—Peat moss litter industry could be established if country had proper transit facilities, inexhaustible supply of bog, 37883.—Construction of railway through district would be of untold benefit to inhabitants; great difficulty in procuring lime and other necessary commodities under present conditions, 37888.

CONWAY, Mr. PATRICK.

See p. 86.

RUNDLE SYSTEM.

Rundle system applied principally to McMahon estate; five or six townlands and about one hundred tenants effected in Greenacree parish, 37881, 37883. Most provisions system, and caused much litigation, 37881.—Greater portion of parish was steeped in 1836 or 1837, 37885.—Portion now in rundle had never been re-steeped, 37884.—People were tired of rundle system, and would do anything to get rid of it, 37882.—Compulsory powers necessary to effect a re-arrangement of holdings, 37886-70a.

MacFARLANE, Mr. JAMES.

See pp. 86-7.

TRANSIT FACILITIES FOR COOKSTOWN.

Want of transit facilities a great drawback to establishment of industries, 37875.—Hand loom industry died out ten years ago; creamery had been started, but was hampered in distribution of produce; good water power which had been used for grinding Indian corn; line which now idle because of cost of cartage; cheaper to send by rail from Cookstown to Belfast than to cart stuff by road from Doonee to Cookstown, distance of five miles, 37878-6.—Witness suggested a light railway to open up district, 37877, 37891.—Rifle suggested from Cookstown through Greenacree and Gortin to Donnagha, about thirty miles, 37878-6.—Railway would accommodate three creameries, Doonee, Greenacree, and Gortin; turnover of Doonee's creamery about £5,000 a year.—Father McGeown did good work in starting Greenacree creamery, 37891.—Railway would also enable people to get lime, 37877.

FLAX INDUSTRY.

Flax industry had greatly declined, 37880.—Free trade had had a great deal to do with it; Russian flax was brought in free; there should be a duty on foreign flax coming in, 37881, 37885, 37891.—That would encourage flax-growing industry in Ireland; not more than 4s. a stone on an average paid for flax; spinners could give double if they wished, 37881, 37889.—They would not pay Irish farmers a big price when they could get Russian flax at a cheap price, 37887.—Russian farmer got his labour for little or nothing, people little more than slaves, 37882-4.—Price of yarn in Russia went up last week and price of Russian flax came down, 37888.—Price depended on supply, 37889.—Belgium was producing better class of flax than any other country, 37892-3.—Great deal depended on water in Belgium; they had a river thirty miles long; it was not so good at both ends

MacFARLANE, Mr. JAMES—continued.

as it was in the centre, 37885.—Irish flax much better than Russian flax, which was very coarse, 37886-7.—Some Irish flax was as good as the Belgian, but it did not fetch as good a price, 37888-9.—Large quantity could not be got together; in Belgium some of the one quality could be obtained, 37900.—For last two years they had been getting good seed in Ireland which was beneficial, 37894.—Belgian seed was brought into Belfast and sold, 37901.

DORIS, Mr. JOHN.

See pp. 97-8.

TOWNLANDS OF LIMBRIE AND MONROE.

Witness appeared for portion of Cookstown Union, the townlands of Limbrie and Monroe, in detached division of Rock and Pomeroy; farmers here situated in same circumstances as those in Parish of Kildress, only land was not so rocky nor so much moorland; 700 or 800 feet above sea level, it was exposed, and had been reclaimed; people all very poor, and had a great struggle to eke out an existence; particulars witness wished to point out were:—

	Acres.	Number of Holdings	Total Valuation	Average Valuation per Holding	Value then per Acre	Average Valuation per Acre
	A. R. P.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Limbrie	1,436 3 0	27	489 11	Little over £18	1 11	3 8
Monroe	429 2 10	40	217 15	A little over £5 10s.	2 6	7 8
Reedshocka	581 3 0	42	357 11	Under £8 5s.	3 0	8 3
Bladon	345 3 12	36	137 10	Under £3 10s.	1 10	3 0
Topanah	554 4 3	13	84 10	Under £6 10s.	3 16	11 7
Corraney	166 5 3	28	89 0	Under £3 10s.	7 12	11 1
Greenacree	218 3 12	29	90 8	Under £3 10s.	3 16	8 7

INDUSTRIES.

Industries should be started in the country to keep the people at home, and districts mentioned should all be scheduled as congested areas, 37908.—District was almost all congested; 75 per cent. of holdings in Pomeroy were under £10 valuation, 37910-11.—There were a number of industries in Donagall, such as needlework and woollen industry, which had made a great improvement; similar industries should be started in this district, 37912.—These industries did not afford much employment for men; object was to provide employment to keep men from emigrating; re-afforestation would improve the country and soften the climate, 37913.

NEW RAILWAY BETWEEN COOKSTOWN AND STRABANE WOULD OPEN UP INDUSTRIES.

If proposed new railway from Cookstown to Strabane was made it would open up other industries; splendid water power in the district, there was the Broughbeg River and another running in the direction of Cookstown, and if this railway were made it was hoped that industries such as these were at Son Mills, Reedbrook and Greenacree would be established; large amount of peat towards Broughbeg, and with railway running through district very probably a peat industry would spring up; people would be able to cut and dry their turf and send it by rail to Cookstown or elsewhere, and get lime in return to improve their land; more opportunities to find labour, both for men and women, if this railway were opened up, 37915.

POTATO SPRAYING.

People had done all they could in the way of potato spraying; they were very quick to take up any new method likely to be beneficial, but, notwithstanding spraying, potato crop had been a failure; potatoes were soggy and hardly fit for use, 37913.—Spraying had been done in dry weather, but in some cases it was nearly impossible to do it in

DORIS, Mr. JOHN.—*continued.*

dry weather; another thing against it was the frost or mist which gathered on the mountain; spraying in the lowlands, without this drawback, had more effect; soil was deeper and better, and produced a better crop, 37914.

THE WOOLLEN INDUSTRY AND THE PROPOSED RAILWAY.

One witness had spoken of the great number of mountain sheep and the large quantity of wool which would be available for woollen industry; if there were a woollen industry in the district people could keep the wool at home and get better price for it, instead of exporting it to England and Scotland or selling it to some of the local firms; now railway would bring district more in touch with Donegal, and would bring sheep along in direction of Belfast; a friend of witness's (Mr. Quinn) was the pioneer in opening up sheep markets of Donegal; he made markets for them, and went to Donegal and brought sheep in hundreds, and with all the disadvantages of having no railway he brought them to Newry, Louth, and Meath, 37914.—Donegal had railways running through it and connecting at St. John's with G.N.R., so were able to reach Newry, Louth, and Meath; if new railway were made there would be brought into better touch with Belfast, 37915.

LAND PURCHASE.

These poor people had not the benefits of land purchase; while landlords of good land were selling, landlords of congested districts refused to sell, except at an exorbitant price, 37915, 37924-6.—Colonel Hutchinson Poe had offered to sell at 24 years' purchase, and would take no less; tenants, through Captain Quinn, offered 24 years' purchase on second term rents, but he would not take it; in witness's opinion 17½ years' purchase was quite sufficient; Colonel Lowry had asked 25 years' purchase, and tenants had offered 23½; Hope's Estate, bordering Colonel Poe's was sold before Land Act of 1903, at 17 years' purchase on second term rents; land on this estate was mountainous and congested, and much the same quality as on Colonel Poe's estate; nearly 3,000 tenants on the estate, and all fairly prosperous, notwithstanding that the annuity would be 4 per cent., as against 3½, 37916-7.—Ballinacree Estate, which was of medium land, sold at 19 years' purchase on first term rents, and there was no game reservation, 37917.

RECREATION DERIVED FROM GAME RESERVATION AND LETTING SHOOTING TO SPORTSMEN.

Tenants now protected game, and derived a good income from letting shooting to sportsmen, 37917.—Everyone was interested in watching the game, 37918.—Each tenant looked after game on his own land because he knew he would derive certain income by so doing, 37919, 37922.—People must club together to let shooting and divide proceeds; that was the only way of managing it, 37923.

QUINN, Mr. FRANCIS.

See p. 96.

WANT OF RAILWAY FACILITIES AT ARDBOE.

Railway facilities were needed; new railway was required from Cookstown to Ardboe, a distance of about eight miles, but if run on to the old Cross of Ardboe it would be ten miles, 37928-30.—Midland Railway Company of England had admitted this grievance, and it would be well if district were listed under Congested Districts Board, so that some assistance towards the scheme would come from them, 37928, 37927.—Necessity for this line had been admitted over twenty years ago; route was mapped out by late Sir Charles Lanyon, and money for work almost voted, but there was a hitch; it was thought that there might be water communication to Cookstown; grievance still unremedied; it had been admitted in Belfast, where people went chiefly for supplies, 37928.—Nothing had been done since route had been mapped out twenty years ago; railway company seemed unwilling to put down money and make

QUINN, Mr. FRANCIS.—*continued.*

this piece of railway, which was so badly needed, 37932.—They considered the line necessary, but had not made it, 37933-4.—Company would be willing to do something, but it would take £50,000 to make a railway, and they were unwilling to spend the money, 37935.

HARRISON, Mr. W. J.

See pp. 99-100.

NO MEADOWING IN DISTRICT OF COOKSTOWN.

Great drawback to people in Cookstown was that they had no meadowing, and in seasons of drought they were impoverished trying to keep their cattle, having no fodder for winter feeding, 37942, 37957.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT NOT GIVING SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO PEOPLE OF POORER DISTRICTS.

They also suffered from want of knowledge in the use of artificial manures and fertilisers, etc.; Agricultural Board had not given attention to these particular places and instructing the people in use of these things; painful to observe their want of knowledge, 37942, 37973-7.—People also behind in knowledge of cattle breeding and rearing; Agricultural Board had given far more attention to breeding of high-class pedigree cattle in Tullyhogue and Stewartstown districts, because results created more applause, and had more money to show than in the case of the people in mountain districts; disilage was also most defective; in Kildress district there were boulders and large stones; apparatus should be lent out by County Council under County Surveyor at net cost of explosives so as to have these blown up, 37942.

LAND AVAILABLE FOR PURPOSES OF MIGRATION AND ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS.

Father McCann had said there were no lands available for purpose of migration, 37943.—There was plenty of land available in witness's district; Agricultural Board had bought Loughrey Manor and Ghebe when these were on the market recently; there were 145 acres, and Board had paid at rate of £13 14s. 6d. an acre; it was purchased for purpose of establishing a dairy farm, but as they could get any amount of land elsewhere suitable for dairy farms, Agricultural Board should have transferred this holding to Congested Districts Board, who could have split it up into farms of twenty acres and relieved congestion in Kildress district by migrating tenants to these new farms, 37944, 37949-51, 37950.—Place was not being used as a dairy farm; nothing yet completed, 37945.—Killymoon Estate, consisting of 600 acres, was offered for sale a few years ago; it would be a good place for purpose of migration, 37945-7, 37952.—The Mourings held it in fee, 37948.—Then there were 150 acres at Stewartstown, 37952.

QUESTION OF ENLARGING PRESENT UNECONOMIC HOLDINGS.

Some witnesses had said that scarcely any improvements in the conditions of agricultural holdings would enable farmers to live by their holdings; witness did not agree, 37958-9.—Land abandoned in Kildress would be of service for enlarging neighbouring holdings; holdings were not capable of supporting young people, who were obliged to emigrate; but if two or three were turned into one matters would greatly improve, 37964.—People in Kildress had not enough of the class of land they possessed; a man with an ordinary farm of fifteen or twenty acres could have three dairy cows, but he would want forage for the winter and would have to go to market and buy it at an outside price; there were seasons when the country was bankrupt for farmers having to buy fodder in the early spring, 37965.—Enlargement of these holdings in Kildress would enable holders to have more hay, fodder, and rough grazing, and with development of the creameries farmers required to have sufficient forage for the winter, 37965.—Twenty-four acres would give these people good economic holding, 37967.—In many cases they worked ten and twelve or fourteen acres, which was not sufficient for a dairy farm; district specially suited for dairy farming; one of the best in Ulster, 37968.—If one of these men with his family had two more farms added

HARRISON, Mr. W. J.—continued.

to his so as to make holding of about thirty acres, he could work it well without assistance, 37968. 37971-2.—Mostly all tillage land, 37970.—These grass lands were all near at hand, some within ten minutes' walk of Cookstown, others only two or three miles from the town; lands like Loughney Manor and Killynnon Park if portowed out among the farmers would not only benefit a district by relieving congestion, but would bring farming population beside the town, 37961.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN OF FARMERS IN LINEN MILLS.

There were two or three big manufacturers of linen fabrics, and children of farmers could find employment in mills, 37961, 37963.—Splendid linen mills in Cookstown; Messrs. Adair were the finest linen manufacturers, and stood highest in the trade in Ulster, 37962.

AGRICULTURAL SHOWS.

Witness subscribed to local shows, 37964.—Small farmers derived no benefit from the shows in this district; in other districts Agricultural Board was catering for the farmers who had the finer class of cattle; they should also help small farmers in poorer districts and give as much attention to class of cattle that would suit their land as they did to cattle of rich farmers, 37965.—Sum of £150 had been spent in substantial grants at these shows; £70 was given for horse-breeding; small farmers under £15 valuation had no chance whatever against large farmer over £50 in valuation, 37966.—Witness did not believe such districts as Kildress, where so much congestion existed, got more than 62. in the 2, 37967.—No class for different valuation, so that small men had sections all to themselves; Rev. Dr. Carter established these shows, and witness had done his best to encourage them and get people in poor districts to come in and take advantage of them, 37973.—There should be classes for farmers under £10 valuation and for farmers under £4 valuation as there were in every other part of the country, 37974.—Local Committee gave contribution to the shows, and should see that such classes were provided; this district had been the pioneer of shorthorn breed of cattle; much money had been made since Agricultural Committee had introduced these shows, because cattle sold for £300 and £400 had been sent out to South America; all the attention was paid to that class of cattle, and poor unfortunate people in mountain districts were left without any assistance, 37975.—Department sent down an inspector to these shows, but people had obtained very little information, 37976.—They sent one to Cookstown shows, but people did not get any advantage; it would take an instructor every day in the week, because of the want of knowledge of these people with regard to use of grasses, especially clover, 37977.

LEEPER, Mr. WILLIAM.

See p. 101.

DISTRICT SHOULD BE SUBSIDISED AS CONGESTED.

Witness was a linen manufacturer in John Sanning and Sons' factory at Cookstown, 37978, 37995-6.—He resided on the edge of the district that had applied to be scheduled as congested, 37979.—District was a very poor one, and consisted of twenty-one townlands, and had an area of about 22,000 acres, and valuation of £4,300; witness thought that district ought to be scheduled as congested, and treated apart from the rest of the county in any scheme; it did not benefit sufficiently from present scheme, 37980, 37987.—It would require more aid than richer districts if people were to be kept in it, 37981.

AGRICULTURAL SHOWS.

There should be some supplemental aid given independent of the general funds, to help a poor district; a scheme was formulated by which residents of this area competed among themselves for certain prizes of agricultural shows, but there was no competition and the scheme was abandoned, 37984-5.

LEEPER, Mr. WILLIAM—continued.

PARISH COMMITTEE SUGGESTED.

Parish Committee would be more in the nature of the work that witness would suggest.

QUESTION OF INDUSTRIES.

Witness did not agree with evidence that had been given concerning industries and establishment of industries; sufficient employees could not be found for work already in existence; it would be necessary to start new industries, 37987-8, 37989-9000.

SCARCITY OF LABOUR AND RAILWAY RATES.

Scarcity of labour and railway rates one great drawback to the extension of such a mill as witness's, 38005.—People living in congested areas could not be induced to come in to work; they preferred to go to America or England or Scotland, 37988.—Work was chiefly for women; men would not have same inclination to come in, but there would be ample work for them too, 37989-90.

EFFECT OF MIGRATION SCHEME.

If migration scheme were carried out which would bring some of the people down to the grass land that was near there would be no improvement; with twenty acres of land no one would be sent out to work on neighbouring farms, 37991.—If they had so much land they would need all the help, 37992.—It would help young men on the farm, but women would not work in a mill from a farm of that size, 37993-4.—Women were recruited from Cookstown and from country districts, from small farmers who were going to the bad; country districts had become greatly depleted in population, and people were going straight to America and Canada, and it was very difficult to get workers, 37998.—No probability of any such thing as a mill being planted down in district like Kildress, where farms were insufficient; two-thirds of production obtained in Belfast, only one-third in Cookstown; rates from Belfast, and the necessity of bringing coal, &c., handicapped industry so much that it was cheaper to produce a piece of cloth in Belfast, although labour was cheaper in Cookstown, 38003-2.—If it was put out in Kildress there would be cartage on addition, 38002.—People came to the mill from half a mile round, 38003-4.

MARKET FOR PRODUCE.

Market was all over the world; England and America the two principal markets; goods bought in Belfast markets, and all passed through Belfast port going away, 38006.

CRAWFORD, Mr. WALTER R.

See pp. 101-2.

AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES.

Witness desired to correct Mr. Harrison's statement about money going from the Agricultural Committee to larger farmers at the shows; such was not the fact; classes were provided at all the shows in the county for small farmers under certain valuation, and this money was altogether given in prizes to smaller farmers, and Show Committees bore all expense of administering funds, 38010.—Board insisted on it, and for Kildress and what are called the poorer districts of the county, the Committee gave a special grant, which was offered to farmers of a certain valuation, 38011.—There was no competition at any of the shows, and the classes were abandoned, 38012, 38021.—It had been tried at Omagh, Cookstown, and Strahane, 38017.—No class for holdings so low as £10, 38018-9, 38021.

Witness did not think it was the case that fifty-three per cent. of the holdings in his district were under £10 valuation, 38017.—All money of Agricultural Committee was apportioned according to valuation, and each district, as far as possible, and County Committee spent money on that basis in each district; Cookstown Union, in the matter of nominations of mares and premiums of bulls, got so many, according to the valuation, 38022.—The higher the valuation the higher the grant; therefore, the richer the union the larger the benefits, 38023-4.—It was not

CRAWFORD, Mr. WALTER R.—continued.

the duty of the richer farmers to be taxed to help the people in congested districts; that was a matter altogether for the Government; any aid should come from Government direct, 38035.—Poorer district did get larger amount than richer county in proportion to valuation, because, if they contributed £1 of rates, they got 25s. of grant, and there were other counties that got 30s., 38036, 38041.—Valuations in Cuckstown were lower, but people were better off than in parts of Sligo with higher valuation, 38022.

Subsidy from the Department depended upon the county contribution, 38030.—County Committee made an arrangement to allocate subsidy in proportion to amount of rate from different districts, 38031.—Principle followed by County Committee in allocating various schemes was that the poorer districts had special attention paid to them; bulls had been placed in these districts, and bogs, as far as possible, where they could get them taken up, 38032, 38033.—Poor districts should receive better treatment than richer districts of that rural district, and they did so, as far as County Tyrone County Committee were concerned, 38035.—There should be supplemental schemes in this district, as there were in various districts in West of Ireland; but Government or the Department should do it, not the other ratepayers in the same county, 38034.

Break start might be worth a trial, to have a category of prizes for the numerous classes of low valuation, under £5 or £5; but competition would not be obtained; what people wanted was education, 38035.—Prizes for drainage might be carried out, 38037.—Bail given as far as possible to each union for money raised in the union for agricultural purposes, 38038.—Money raised in richer districts was allocated for those districts; it all went into one fund, 38040.—Reason poorer districts did not avail themselves of the superior bails was that the Agricultural Committee insisted on their purchase at one of these shows, and the payment of £40 before they could get a premium, and people were unable to invest £40 in a bull, 38042-3.

CLARKE, Mr. PETER.

See pp. 193-6.

AREA, POPULATION, VALUATION.

Witness represented Strabane No. 1 Rural District Council; he resided at Plumbridge, 38044-5.—Strabane No. 1 Rural District consisted of twenty electoral divisions; the total area was 135,992 acres 0 roods 39 perches; population in 1901 was 25,395; total valuation, £69,276 9s.; population in 1891 was 27,584; witness had been instructed to deal only with very poor divisions; he selected seven.—Lislea, Plumbridge, Glenrae, Glenchiel, Mount Hamilton, Stranagallilly, and Loughash, 38049.

LISLEA DIVISION.

Lislea Division lay westward from Gortin, between Newtownstewart and the border, 3853-4.—It was largely mountainous; 45 per cent. of the land had been reclaimed by tenants, remainder was heather and grazing; area of Lislea was 6,897 acres 0 roods 18 perches; population, 768; valuation, £1,154 16s., or £1 8s. 9d. per head; this was the valuation when the Act of 1891 was passed, and the division could therefore be scheduled, 38049-51, 38058.

INDUSTRIES.

Most of the soil was not very productive, and as a consequence farmers saved turf in summer and disposed of it in Strabane and Newtownstewart; much of the road was hilly and unprotected by hedges, making transport of turf difficult, 38052, 38054.—Sewing underclothing was Lislea's only industry, 38054.

NECESSITY FOR ARTERIAL DRAINAGE.

Arterial drainage was greatly needed; if it were supplied some tenants would be willing to do the field drainage; others would be too poor, 38054-6, 38060-1, 38062.—But a loan on reasonable terms might induce

CLARKE, Mr. PETER.—continued.

them to carry out the work, 38057.—There were no evidences that this district had formerly been drained, 38058-9.—Arterial drainage should be opened by public authority; the expense was too great for the local bodies; in this division many tenants had to get loans from loan fund, 38062-3.

SIZE OF HOLDINGS IN BALLYNASOLE AND CUCKSTOWN.

Witness did not know size of Lislea holdings under £10 valuation, but in Ballynasole an area of 965 acres had a population of seventy-one, representing about twenty families; here there would be about twelve acres per person, 38064-7. Cuckstown, in Lislea, contained 374 acres 1 rood 2 perches; population fifty-six, making about six acres per person; valuation was £40, 38068.

PLUMBRIDGE DIVISION.

Plumbridge was also mountainous; much land had been reclaimed from cutaway bog-land; holdings were small and ramshackle, and therefore troublesome to manage; buildings could not be placed suitably; the children were needed to herd the small plots, so that compulsory education was a great hardship; Plumbridge contained 5,501 acres 2 roods 21 perches; population, 872; valuation, £1,674 2s., 38070-2.—The high valuation was due to Plumbridge village, where there were fifteen shopkeepers and eleven public-houses, whose houses were valued high, and also to two parsonage houses and a manse, 38073-5.—Otherwise the division was extremely poor; most of the people borrowed from the loan fund; an auctioneer in the town had £3,981 12s. 9d. out in bills and £1,445 15s. 1d. in mortgages, and charged a high rate of interest, 38076-82.—In reckoning the average valuation it would be well to exclude the valuation of houses in the town, to reduce the average valuation of the division, 38078.

GLENRAE DIVISION.

Glenrae electoral division, in the same parish as Plumbridge, was cold and mountainous; there might be a few fertile homes along the water; area was 5,053 acres 2 roods 19 perches; population, 575; valuation, £967 15s., or about £1 12s. per head; roads were very hilly; of two main roads on either side the river, one led from Strabane to Draperstown, Magherafelt, and Belfast; this road having opened up the place, the other sprang up; generally speaking roads were steep-sided and fourth-class; in this division the best roads were second-class, the rest third and fourth class; in one townland the area was 969 acres 1 rood 23 perches; population, 112; valuation, £35 2s.; in another townland area was 2,158 acres 0 roods 31 perches; population, 237; valuation, £66 8s., 38082.—The only industry in Glenrae Division was sewing underclothing, 38083-4.

GLENCHIEL DIVISION.

Glenchiel electoral division was mountainous, with poor soil; area, 4,159 acres 1 rood 2 perches; population, 774; valuation, £1,125 17s., or £1 9s. per head, 38094.—Glenchiel lay north-east of Gortin, towards Draperstown, 38095-7.

MARKETS FOR GLENRAE AND GLENCHIEL.

Markets for produce of Glenrae and Glenchiel were Cuckstown, Omagh and Strabane; two days were needed for going to and from Strabane; the roads did not admit of improvement by District Council, 38085.

MOUNT HAMILTON DIVISION.

Mount Hamilton, one of the most mountainous divisions in the county, contained the Sperrin Mountains; snow lay there nearly all winter; land was poor; potatoes had only lately been planted; division contained 12,618 acres 0 roods 33 perches; population was 420, valuation £725 12s., nearly all the holdings being under £10 valuation, 38097-8.

STRANAGALLILLY DIVISION.

Stranagallilly division, in Donaghedy Parish, was largely mountainous, and the soil poor, but bogs were abundant; the division contained 10,525 acres

GLARKE, Mr. PETER.—*continued.*

1 road 11 perches; population, 835; valuation, £935 7s.; 176 occupiers were under £4 valuation, and 670 more were under £10; few were beyond £10, 36,668-90.—The post industry could be set up at Stranagawilly, 36,661.

LIMESTONE ABUNDANT.

Limestone quarries were abundant, Cookstown being the only other limestone quarry in the district within thirty-four miles; if these quarries were opened up, and a light railway constructed between them and Cookstown, the demand for lime would be enormous; it was used for top-dressing, 36,668, 36,661-5.—An arterial drain was needed in this division, and meadows could be reclaimed from the bog; the lime would be no use unless the land were first drained, 36,661, 36,666.—Witness paid 11s. 6d. per ton for lime, 36,667.—Two sizes of barrels were used for lime, the larger cost 1s. 6d. in Cookstown, 36,666-9.—Daily papers had reported suggestions for railways from Dromahaire to Cookstown, from Cullinstown to Potlough, and a connection between Dangan and Drogheda, 36,664.

LOUGHSHAW DIVISION.

Loughshaw was a very poor district, abounding in limestone; area, 5,938 acres 1 road 9 perches; valuation, £1,222 15s.; population, 883, 36,104.

DECLINE IN POPULATION OF DISTRICT.

Decline in population from 1881-1901 was: for Loughshaw, from 1,197 to 883; Stranagawilly, from 970 to 835; Mount Hamilton, from 639 to 420; Glenties, from 1,604 to 774; Glenroan, from 735 to 575; Plunkelidge, from 1,136 to 875; Lisles, from 1,190 to 798, 36,028, 36,024.—There were industries in Blon Mills; in Attacloy and East Urney divisions. Messrs. Hardman employed 1,800 hands, at wages from 8s. 6d. to £2 per week; in these divisions the people had remained, and population had increased, 36,104-10.—Some of the workers came daily from Strabane, 36,111.—Men as well as women were employed, 36,119.—The institution of similar mills, or of home industries, in witness's neighbourhood would stop emigration, 36,117-7.—Migratory labourers from these districts went to Great Britain, 36,118.

NO BENEFIT DERIVED BY SMALL FARMERS FROM TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

In Strabane Rural District No. 1 no benefit was derived from the penny rate for technical instruction, 36,123-6.—Financé and poultry instructors gave courses of four lectures; these were an experimental or demonstration plots; a pedigree bull recently introduced died, 36,125.—It was too late in the day to train adult farmers, but demonstration plots would be of use, 36,127-31.—The expenditure on farming instruction chiefly benefited the neighbourhood of Cookstown, Tullyhog, Coagh, and Dangan, 36,132.—The large farmers, who had greater influence, were the chief gainers, not the small farmers, whose needs were greater, 36,137-3.

RAFFERTY, Mr. MICHAEL.

See pp. 105-7.

SIR HUGH H. STEWART'S ESTATE—POWERS OF TENANTS—HARSH MANAGEMENT BY AGENTS.

The valuation of four electoral divisions in Carrickmore portion of Omagh Rural District was: Atherry, £3,223; Carrickmore, £1,540; Craggan, £711; Loughmaccarty, £1,108; population of Atherry 1,135, of Carrickmore 1,693, of Craggan 542, of Loughmaccarty 849; most of Atherry was of small valuation, but average was raised fairly high by a couple of townlands near town of Carrickmore; the four divisions were comprised in the Sir Hugh H. Stewart Estate, on which the tenants were very poor and greatly dependent on assistance from relatives in America, England, and Scotland; there had been much emigration, 36,141, 36,147.—The estate had been managed for some years by an agent of Graham Insurance Company; he treated tenants harshly; when a tenant applied to Land Commission to have a second judicial rent fixed on his holding he was

RAFFERTY, Mr. MICHAEL.—*continued.*

at once served with a civil bill process for any rent due; tenants in arrears were evicted, and they or their relatives reinstated at a raised rent, and so constituted future tenants and unable afterwards to benefit by Land Acts; where a tenant divided land amongst his family the agent would consent, but raised the rent on the portions, 36,141, 36,143.

SUB-DIVISION.

There was not much of sub-division amongst tenants, and generally only amongst members of a family; in some cases of selling the purchaser paid a higher rent, 36,142-3, 36,145-7.

RENTS.

In spite of Land Courts, the landlord's income in this neighbourhood had never decreased, because though in some cases a fair reduction of rents had been obtained, in others they had been allowed to stand or had risen; since Graham Insurance Company took over Sir H. H. Stewart's Estate rents of some tenants in Carrickmore had been doubled, and in some cases increased almost five-fold; terms of sale at eighteen years' purchase on first term rents had at one time been offered to tenants, but since 1903 the terms were twenty-seven years' purchase on second term rents, 36,147-8, 36,153-7.

INDUSTRIES.

Peat Moss Lifter Company at Carrickmore employed a few persons on the only industry in this neighbourhood; increase of the industry would be useful; Craggan had more peat than Carrickmore, 36,145, 36,154.—A whinstone quarry would have been opened up by County Council of Tyrone, who wished to obtain from it supplies of road metal, but drew back, as the landlord demanded £100 per acre for drawing stone, 36,147, 36,151.—This quarry and a limestone quarry in the district would give employment to many who would prefer work at home to emigration, 36,153-6.—A road was greatly needed through the division of Craggan, 36,147, 36,154.

VALUATION PER HEAD.

Poor law valuation in Carrickmore Electoral Division was £1 7s. 6d. per head; only 51 holdings were over £10 valuation, 227 between £10 and £4, and 605 under £5; in Craggan division valuation per head was £1 1s. 6d., Loughmaccarty £1 5s. 10d., Atherry £2 14s. 6d.; a few large holdings were the cause of Atherry's higher average, 36,149-50.

VACANT FARMS.

Land in Carrickmore was chiefly under cultivation, except the mountainous part, 36,161.—There was little grass land, 36,160.—Five or six vacant farms were in the landlords' hands; this fact concerned the Estates Commissioners, 36,151-2.

MCNALOGUE, Rev. JOHN.

See pp. 127-9.

NORTH TYRONE—CLIMATE, SOIL, ETC.

Witness was parish priest of TERNOMONGAN, and came from Cullinstown Poor Law Division; his evidence dealt with the whole mountain district from the Demagol border to County Derry; the northern part of Tyrone had no road; agriculture was the main industry, but the soil was poor; it was not fitted for laying out grass land; only in an exceptional year would the climate allow the crops to be got in at reasonable time; even towards the end of May, in 1907, potatoes were being planted; crops, consequently, did not mature, and labour was lost though the people were industrious and attached to the soil.

TRANSPORT AND DRAINAGE.

Ternomongan parish was illustrative of the district, and comprised 45,398 acres; valuation was £7,355, and population 4,393; Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of Ireland gave the population in 1857 at 7,255; but this number been maintained, Ternomongan would certainly be scheduled congested; same book stated that a quarter of the soil was under

M'CONALOGUE, Rev. JOHN.—continued.

cultivation in 1837; some land had since been reclaimed, but more had apparently gone out of cultivation; the land could not support the people, yet they were too few to cultivate it; they were handicapped by poverty of the soil, by the climate, by want of transit facilities, by the absence of a suitable industry; three-fourths of the occupiers were hopelessly in debt; Longfield parish was in a similar condition; the two parishes, comprising 79,515 acres, had no railway, though they paid a guarantee to Castleberg Tramway; the whole district of 200,000 acres was without railway facilities, except where the Great Northern cut it between Strabane and Omagh, 36169, 36167.—A scheme to improve transit facilities in Termonmagog had been discussed without result, 36164-6.—Under Congested Districts Board the occupiers' position might be improved, 36198.—Surface drainage was needed, 36206.—The parish needed much spade labour, but the population was too small to give it, 36206.—Housing was fairly good; the introduction of Parish Committee scheme, which worked well elsewhere, was desirable, 36207.—County scheme had not greatly benefited this district, and in general gave less benefit to the poorer districts, which required more intensive treatment than to the richer, 36208-9.

AGRICULTURAL TEACHING.

Horticulture and agriculture might be taught in National schools by teachers trained in practical and theoretical knowledge; this would not entrench too much on ordinary schoolwork; the instruction might afterwards be continued by a farm instructor, 36199-205.

CHANGE IN DEFINITION OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS DESIRABLE.

Many districts besides those scheduled as congested needed aid from Congested Districts Board; witness's suggestion for definition of a congested district would take the land alone, omitting buildings or causes of expense rather than profit, and would substitute the township for the electoral division as the unit for scheduling, 36167-70, 36171-3.—Definition suggested was: any area though less than an electoral division, and not less than a township, where the total rateable value of the land when divided by the number of the population, gives a sum of less than £1 10s. for each individual, or where the total rateable value of the land, if divided by total acreage of said area, gives a sum of less than 6s. per acre, may be declared congested and be scheduled as such, notwithstanding any limitation as to time of scheduling, as laid down in Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1881, sec. 26 (2), 36170, 36174-5.—The average of a township of poor quality in Termonmagog would be 6s. an acre, 36173.—If the existence of a large mountain tract resulted in the scheduling of a township containing good holdings it would not matter, such scheduled townlands would not contain many strong farmers, and the presence of a few was always a good thing, 36175, 36191.—Where valuation was 7s. an acre, people could just manage to exist, 36177-81.—Where the whole valuation of a parish fell within witness's definition, the parish should be scheduled, 36181.—Present definition of a congested district should be retained, with witness's definition added, 36182-6.—Witness had worked out his 6s. an acre definition; it would apply to the district under discussion, 36187-90.—Assuming the average value of land in County Tyrone was 9s., that was a reason why what fell below 9s. should be scheduled, 36193.

MOORE, Mr. J.

See pp. 109-10.

CONGESTION OF DONAGHEADY, LOUGHSH, AND STRANAGALLIVY PARISHES.

Witness represented Donaghedy parish and two electoral divisions, Loughsh and Stranagallivly, 36210.—Farmers in these districts could not support themselves and families and pay the rent; there was no work for men, and they had to emigrate or go to Scotland, 36211, 36212.—If a railway were made, industries could be started; the line should be carried from Donemana to Cookstown, along a valley which ran from Donemana to Plumbridge, 36211-3, 36221.—

MOORE, Mr. J.—continued.

A deposit of limestone stretched six miles to village of Donemana, near Plumbridge; there were deposits of brick-clay and peat waiting to be worked, 36211.—Lead and silver also might probably be found in both electoral divisions; witness showed a specimen of lead ore and one of what he thought was silver ore, 36214-6.—Witness had taken these from rocks in the district; the mines had never been opened, 36217-8.—Planting trees would improve the climate and give employment; much water-power was going to waste; factories for woollen and carpet weaving, and perhaps a bleaching green, might be started, 36219.—There was a hardy class of sheep in the divisions, 36220.—A number of the farmers sprayed last year, but the poorer ones did not, 36222.

AGNEW, Rev. THOMAS J.

See pp. 110-2.

LOWER BADONY PARISH.

Witness lived at Roskey, near Gortin, his evidence was the connecting link between that regarding Greenacres and that which concerned the divisions from Strabane to Plumbridge, 36223.—It was for Lower Badony Parish that witness was giving evidence; the parish invaded the mountain side seen on the left on the way to Gortin, and comprised portions of the electoral divisions of Gortin, Fallagh, Trillick, Glenlark, Crookanboy, all belonging to Omagh Union.

VALUATION.

Percentage of holdings not exceeding £10 valuation was: Gortin 54 per cent, Fallagh 15 per cent, Trillick 68 per cent, Glenlark 87 per cent, Crookanboy 83 per cent; for the fifteen townlands within the parish the average valuation per head of the population of 2,190 was £1 9s. 5d.; average valuation per acre, including the houses, was, Gortin (which included the village area) 6s. 2d., Crookanboy 3s. 1d., Trillick 3s. 6d., Fallagh 2s. 2d., Glenlark 1s. 8d., 36224-5.

CHARACTER OF LAND AND CONDITIONS OF AGRICULTURE.

Help was claimed for the parish both on account of its low valuation and its mountainous character; the level balmes by the rivers were liable to frequent floods, and were consequently useless for crops; they were used for grazing, but the sand deposits injured the cattle; the rivers frequently changed their courses, 36225-7; tillage was risky; market towns for produce were far away, Roskey, in the centre of the district, being thirteen miles from Omagh and eighteen from Cookstown; the journey from market and back took from midnight to the following midnight, and was severe work for the horses on the mountain roads; ploughs could seldom be used till the middle of March, and horse labour was difficult to obtain; in the present year much of the potato crop was still unplanted on 12th of May, and, if September were wet, it might be destroyed by blight; farmers could not afford to spray properly, 36228-9.—Failure of the potatoes meant famine, 36231.—In a good year, if potatoes were planted early, the danger of damage from late frost would be less than present danger, 36232.—On northern and north-eastern mountain slopes crops did not really ripen; owing partially to want of lime, much land reclaimed from the mountains was going out of cultivation, 36232, 36276-8.—Ploughing cost about 52 per acre, or about double what it cost in lowlands, as much of the land could be ploughed only in one direction—downwards—the crop was sometimes only half what it was in lowlands, 36233-4.—Ploughing across the hill was often impossible for horses, and downward ridges were necessary for drainage; downward ploughing brought the soil down, and it had to be taken up every few years; manure and soil were often taken up in baskets, 36235-6.

QUESTION OF CONGESTION.

According to amended definition of "congested" given to Commission, this parish might be called congested, 36248.—That definition was not meant to take the valuation of the holding, 36251.—In an average holding of thirty English acres in this parish arable land would be ten to fifteen acres and the rest

AGNEW, REV. THOMAS J.—continued.

rock and mountains, 38283-4, 38287-8.—Practically all the tilld ground would be reclaimed land, 38289.—The average rent would be under 27, 38279.—These holdings could not be made economic without subsidizing, 38295.—By subsidizing witness meant starting home industries; other industries, such as the woollen industry and brick-making, could be developed, 38278-9.

HOUSING AND OUT-LETTERS.

Housing for men and cattle was poor, 38236.—Manure heaps were too near the houses, 38237.—The absence from the buildings of lime, which was necessary from a sanitary standpoint, was noticeable; lime quarries in this parish were not worked, and lime had to be fetched from Cookstown; it took two nights and a day to fetch it; the horses could not bring a full load on these roads, 38236-7, 38279.

AGRICULTURAL NEEDS OF DISTRICTS.

Engraving was naturally attractive to so poverty-stricken a population; but they were industrious, or they would not have attempted to reclaim the mountains; they thought themselves entitled to State aid, and hoped for the subsidizing of the district; planting of shelter plots of trees on parts of the mountain not worth killing would improve climate and shelter cattle; if trees were supplied the farmers themselves could plant them, 38237-8.—Assistance was needed to construct surface drainage and closed drains, in some places main drainage was required, 38238-9.—This would improve cultivation of the soil, 38276.—Little could be done to improve the river; funds for roads were wanted; at present the small quantity of turf sold in Rosbeg had to be carried half or three-quarters of a mile, 38244-5.—Introduction of fresh seed was desirable, and farmers could not afford it, 38243-4.—Enlargement of holdings would be prevented by lack of land, but improvement of land now occupied was possible, 38244-5.—For this time was an essential, 38239, 38270-3.—The people would prefer emigration to migration, 38247, 38271.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT'S WORK.

Agricultural Committee had made no provision of good seed for Lower Badoy; they had sent short-horn bulls, which the farmers thought unsuitable to the soil; the local committee were not consulted about these animals; the owner had now sold them; a polled Angus had been recently placed in the district, and not yet tested, 38256-62.—Department of Agriculture had made an experiment regarding fowls, which was a failure after four or five years' experience; witness saw no beneficial results from Department's work, 38253-6.

LYNCH, MR. PATRICK.

See pp. 112-3.

BALLYMULLINS AND BANAGHER.

Ballymullins and Banagher, in County Londonderry, formed the subject of witness's evidence, 38282-3.—He was a County Councillor for Londonderry, and these were portions of his county district, and were contiguous to those poor districts of County Tyrone to which Commissioners' attention had been drawn, 38284-5, 38323-4.—Ballymullins and Banagher lay between Londonderry and village of Park, fourteen miles from Gortin, and on Derry side of Savell Mountains, which divided Tyrone and Derry, 38288-91.—Conditions on either side Savell Mountains were similar, 38292.—The Union was the Londonderry Union, 38316.

AREA, POPULATION, VALUATION.

Of the townlands in Banagher Division: Altinire Lower comprised 140 acres 0 rods 3 perches, population was 82, valuation £79; Altinire Upper comprised 322 acres 0 rods 8 perches, population 93, valuation £146; Carnasnaught had 300 acres 3 rods 0 perches, population 75, valuation £104 8s.; Carnasnaught had 280 acres 0 rods 3 perches, population 272, valuation £235 10s.; Draken had 2,131 acres 2 rods 20 perches, population 538, valuation £215 15s.; Gortinroghan had 516 acres 0 rods 11 perches, population 110, valuation £126 15s.; Kilfreena had

LYNCH, MR. PATRICK.—continued.

378 acres 0 rods 31 perches; neither Kilfreena's population nor valuation was given, because a doveness connected with it would make a reduction on the figures; Kilgort had 1,680 acres 1 rod 27 perches, population 173, valuation £236 4s.; Lear had 2,023 acres 2 rods 7 perches, population 106, valuation £290 5s.; Yarnagh had 1,592 acres 3 rods 22 perches, population 122, valuation £151 5s.; Tinskeigh had 613 acres 2 rods 15 perches, population 274, valuation £277 15s., 38293-7.—Griffith's valuation was about 35 per cent. higher in witness's district, and Ulster generally, than elsewhere in Ireland, because the valuation in the North was made later than that in the South, and at a time when the North was more prosperous than the South, 38314-5.

RAILWAY COMMUNICATION.

The railway communication nearest to witness's district was at Derry, fifteen miles away; a scheme to connect Drogheda and Derry by rail had passed through Parliament, but was afterwards abandoned, 38293-5.—A line between Derry and Park, passing through Cleady, would pay, and open up an important district, and enable Park to furnish supplies to Glenties, as it did formerly till about ten years ago, when a railway connected Glenties with another source of supplies, 38295-8.—There was already much traffic between Derry and Park, 38297.—Witness's district would not be served by a line between Donaghadee and Cookstown, 38299.—Witness did not give evidence before present Vocational Commission on Irish railways, but Dr. Todd had put before it this question of a Derry to Park railway, 38300-2.

EMPLOYMENT FOR BOYS.

Girls in this district were employed sewing under-clothing; boys had to seek work in Scotland; a cottage industry for boys was desirable; weaving had formerly employed men in Ulster, 38303-7.—The comparative poverty of the district was proved by this seeking of work in Scotland; the practice was demoralising, 38311-2.

MCULLAGH, MR. PETER (of Plumbridge).

See pp. 113-7.

MOUNT HAMILTON, GLENCHIEL, AND GLENAN—VALUATION.

Witness came from Plumbridge county district and electoral divisions of Glensheil, Mount Hamilton, and Glenan; Mount Hamilton was his electoral division, and Strabane the Union, 38318, 38333-4.—Glensheil had 93 per cent. of its inhabitants under £10 valuation, Glenan had 78 per cent., Mount Hamilton had 32, 38332.—A £10 holding represented about 120 acres, of which fifteen might be arable, or partly arable, 38334-5.

CONDITIONS OF LIFE IN MOUNT HAMILTON.

Mount Hamilton was 1,100 feet above sea level, 38334.—The land was so hilly no cart could be used on farms; manure and crops had to be carried up the hill in baskets tied on horses' backs; in going down hill slide cars were used, 38332.—Twenty-five of the seventy-nine landholders in Mount Hamilton could not keep a horse owing to their own poverty and the nature of the soil, so had to carry up manure themselves, 38335-6.—Horses could generally be worked on hill-sides; ploughing had usually to be done downhill; it was not possible uphill; ploughing across threw the soil down; downward ploughing assisted the drainage, 38336-39, 38332.—Ploughing across was difficult, 38333.—Most of the people spoke Irish, 38332.—Most of the land was not arable, and had been reclaimed within sixty years, 38334.

WITNESS'S FARM.

Witness had 120 acres, ten were arable and not very good; the crops were oats and potatoes, 38336-7, 38332-4.—The rest of the land was sheep grazing, 38336.—Witness did not keep a horse; it would not be economic to do so, 38337.—His land was bog, with no alluvial and many rocks, 38338.—He had drained

M'CULLAGH, Mr. PETER (of Plimbridge)—continued.

it, 38373.—His valuation was £8 10s., and was on the arable portion, 38336-40.

SHEEP AND WOOL.

Grazing on the Scawell Mountains in this district was mostly common grazing, and not so good as private grazing would be; more of the sheep had to be sent away in winter, 38340-5.—The district the other side of Scawell Mountains was very poor, 38346-7.—Sheep had not paid for fifteen years till two years ago, when prices rose, 38357-61.—There was plenty of wool; the people had knowledge of spinning and weaving, and, if supplied with machinery, and taught use of modern looms, might be engaged in an industry, 38361-4.

ROADS.

Roads, right of way to roads, and foot-bridges were entirely lacking in fourteen townlands; produce for market had to be carried by the people on their backs, 38349, 38351.—Fourteen families were thus situated, 38350.—In witness's locality there was only one road, not a good one, 38356.

CROPS.

Potatoes were mostly Irish Whites, and not good; they could not be planted soon enough, 38366, 38373, 38376.—Champion potato had been introduced, but was now extinct, 38374.—Spraying was of little use, 38375-3, 38376-7.—Crops raised were used to feed the people, but did not last three months; flour, Indian meal, potatoes, tea and bacon were purchased, 38381-3.—Thirty or forty years ago more spade labour was done, and oatmeal enough for the year was produced, 38386-7.—Flax would not grow in Mount Hamilton, 38385, 38386.—Department of Agriculture did nothing for this district, though rates were paid, 38397-400.

LIME.

Lime was not obtainable within ten miles; this was a great drawback to reclamation, 38379-10, 38392.—Lime quarries should be opened, 38391.

M'CULLAGH, Mr. PETER (of Artaghobla).

See pp. 115-6.

STATE OF HOUSING IN LOWER BADONEY.

Lower Badoney Parish was represented by witness; holdings there were generally narrow strips of land running up the mountain side, much of which was tillage; soil was difficult to labour; rocky, wet, shallow; in great part of the district corn did not ripen; it was often bought by farmers at auction for 10 per cent. over market price, as they had no money in that season; farms averaged about thirty acres, one-third of which was, or had been, tillage, and one-third had lapsed into a state worse than that before it was reclaimed; the elevation of Lower Badoney was 400 to 600 feet, 38401-2.—Holdings along the rivers were liable to floods; it was useless to attempt to confine the rivers; embankments made had all been torn down by fresh floods, 38402-3.—Lime was greatly needed, and could be got no nearer than Cookstown, eighteen miles away; many of the farmers had no horse, 38403-4.—One horse only was kept by most farmers, so two farmers had to join for ploughing, which could not begin till middle of March, consequently crops were sown very late, 38404.—Few of the farms were economic, and farmers were greatly dependent on assistance from relatives in America, 38404, 38405.—In witness's own townland oats would not ripen, and it was difficult to sell them and difficult to get them to market, 38406-9. Field drains of stone were the class of drains needed, 38434.

EMIGRATION AND INDUSTRIES.

Many boys and girls went to America, some boys to England, 38404-7.—A little sewing was done in Gortin village; if knitting, lace-making and crochets industries were started they might keep the girls at home; these industries had never existed in the county, 38406, 38444-6.—Wool was abundant, and

M'CULLAGH, Mr. PETER (of Artaghobla)—continued.

was sold to middlemen; a woollen industry would be more profitable, 38444.—The county formerly had tuck mills, where wool and cloth prepared at home were dressed up, 38446.

DIET.

Diet in Lower Badoney was: for breakfast, tea and bread without butter; for dinner, starchout and milk with bread, and sometimes an egg or American bacon; for tea, tea and bread; for supper, starchout and milk, 38410-2.—Diet had deteriorated in recent years; formerly it included the produce of farms; cost of living had been raised by use of tea; labourers had now to be fed better than their employers or they would leave, 38414, 38421-6.—It was doubtful whether tea was wholesome, 38427.

COST OF LABOUR.

Boys bound as labourers for six months were now paid £10 10s., besides receiving the four meals described; twenty years ago the wage was £4 and £5, 38415-20.—Holdings described by witness could not pay with hired labour, 38420, 38428.—With hired labour rate cost £3 8s. per acre to produce, and sold for less than £3, 38427-3, 38428-3.—There was plenty of demand for labourers on large farms, so that wages had risen; labourers were engaged for six months, 38429-31.

FENCES.

Fencing was bad, and mostly of stone; quick fences were placed along the river a few miles from Gortin, but about Gortin wire fences were most used, and gave no shelter, 38434-6.

POTATOES.

Spraying would be beneficial if done properly; supply of sprays was insufficient; all those in Lower Badoney were knapsack sprayers; last year was wet, and spraying wholly failed, 38437-9, 38442-3.—Irish Whites, the chief potato grown, would not hold the spray if rain came; Champions did well for a time, and then failed entirely; Up-to-dates and Suttons would give fair results and hold the spray, 38440-1.—There was much blight in 1906, 38441.

DALLINGER, Mr. P. G.

See pp. 116-22 and 129-30.

TYRONE COUNTY COMMITTEE'S WORK.

Witness was Secretary of the County Council of Tyrone, and represented County Committee of Agriculture, 38447.—Tyrone County Committee's work throughout the county was subject of witness's evidence, 38448-50.—A previous witness had stated that County schemes were no good, but that he believed in demonstration plots; the same witness represented a district in which one of the Committee's most important and expensive demonstration plots was worked in neighbourhood of Six Mile Cross, 38451-2.

FLAX.

The plot in question was intended to make special tests regarding flax cultivation, 38455-6.—Many small farmers grew a little flax; it was desirable that more should be grown, 38456-7.

RATING FOR TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

Rate raised by County Council for agriculture and technical instruction was administered by County Committee of Agriculture under guidance of Agricultural Department; unit of rating was a rural district which might contain much good and much bad land; sometimes 10,000 acres produced so little that even, with the addition of Department's grant, the sum raised was too small to give a premium to a bull, 38458.—Department's grant was five-ninths of the total sum from rate and grant, the rate being four-ninths; the rate was a penny in the pound, and had to be spread over the whole district from which it was raised; funds were thus very limited, 38458-60.

DALLINGER, Mr. P. G.—continued.

TREATMENT OF NEEDY AREAS—OUTSIDE AID NEEDED TO SUPPLEMENT FUNDS.

County Committees desired to give special attention to needy areas, but lacked funds; to supplement the rates from these needy areas outside aid was wanted, 39461-3, 39465.—Additional or "intensive" organisation was needed to interest very poor districts in any scheme; they would probably at once respond to organisation; they were handicapped by difficulties of transport, 39464-5, 39543, 39545.—So far poorer districts had derived from County schemes more benefit than their rate-producing power entitled them to, 39455.—The rich men's larger contribution to the rate resulted in the whole fund for the district being larger than it would be if only poor men contributed, and as the poor man got his full share of the general provision for lectures, &c., he benefited by the rich man's contribution, 39543, 39545-5, 39550-5.—A premium bull might be located in a townland whose valuation did not pay for the bull, 39547.—Lectures had not yet been held in all districts of Tyrone, 39555.—There were well-to-do farmers scattered among the poor ones in all districts of Tyrone, 39556.

FAIRNESS OF DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.

Rates raised from Tyrone County under Agricultural and Technical Instruction scheme amounted to £1,208, which represented four-ninths of the joint fund, Department's grant supplying the other five-ninths, 39713.—In Strabane Union rates were £290, Department's grant £276, making total of £566, 39715.—The scheme worked in Strabane Union was a County scheme, drawn up on the basis of the rural valuation of the district; if Strabane's valuation was one-tenth that of the county, one-tenth of the joint fund available was the share due to Strabane, 39715-9.—Live stock scheme in Strabane received £37 for horses (accommodations); £130 to £150 for bulls, Strabane's share of the premiums depending on the total number given, which varied from year to year; ewine scheme in Strabane received £10; turkey and goose scheme £3 and £10; under cottage farm prize scheme £90 was allocated for prizes, 39719.—The amount of money raised in any rural district, plus the equivalent grant from Department, was expended in the same rural district; taking the valuation of the county at £100,000, and that of Strabane at £5,000, the £5,000 represented Strabane's share of the joint fund, which share was expended in Strabane, 39723-4.—It was impossible that there were districts in County Tyrone in which money was expended far in excess of the sum resulting from the penny in the pound rate for agricultural instruction, because the basis of County Committee's expenditure was the rate, 39725-6.—Witness did not think money had been expended in certain rural districts on schemes for those particular rural districts in excess of the sums for those particular districts, the excess coming from the other rural districts; but an exact answer would require much figuring, which he was prepared to undertake; in special cases Department had made grants for special purposes; to say money had been diverted from one district to another that schemes might work in that district was absolutely untrue, 39727-3.

QUESTION OF COMPETENCY OF WITNESSES BEFORE THE COMMISSION AS JUDGES OF WORK OF COUNTY COMMITTEES.

A question put to a witness during the afternoon as to whether he had seen any benefit from agricultural schemes was not a fair question; these people had referred to the cattle, but the district under discussion was not a cattle-breeding district, but a sheep district; many eggs from County Committee's distributing station had been sent to this district; it had been stated that Committee would not allow Galloway bulls in the district, but only Aberdeen Angus and Shorthorns; as a fact, Committee also recommended Ayrshires, and had recommended the Galloway bull, but Department refused to admit Galloways to premiums in Tyrone as they might do harm; a witness who stated that one bull had produced under the premium scheme had been a failure was not representing the total amount of the work done in the district, 39742.—Present witness was not an expert on bulls; he thought the Galloway would be useful

DALLINGER, Mr. P. G.—continued.

in some United districts of the county, but if generally used it would injure export trade, and many bulls from the county were sold to Argentina at high prices, 39743.—Nothing had been done for sheep in these poor districts, 39744.—Witness did not doubt Commission's competency to question witnesses on County Committee's work, but doubted the competency of certain witnesses to answer such questions, since they could not completely know what was done in any rural district, 39745-6, 39750.—Present witness had records of eggs distributed and bulls sowing seed in the county, 39750-2.—Present witness's desire was merely to arrive at the truth, 39749, 39755.—He did not say men of local knowledge were not telling the truth, 39754.—He thought it was not usual in beginning an educational scheme to consult the people who were going to submit to it, 39745.—The four years during which these schemes had been in operation was a negligible quantity in a nation's life, 39756.

ITINERANT INSTRUCTION.

Itinerant instruction in agriculture was supplied in course of four lectures given generally at a National school; lectures were well attended; lecturers visited farms, gave advice, and selected plots on various farms for demonstration and experiment; for these plots County Committee supplied manure and seed, and supplied farmers with potato-sprouting boxes to demonstrate value of sprouting seed; instructors afterwards paid periodic visits to plots; experiments aroused interest among farmers; lectures on veterinary hygiene were given by a lecturer sent by Department, and were well attended, 39762.

DEMONSTRATION PLOTS.

In a demonstration plot near Greenacres a variety of potatoes were sown in heavy clay soil; sprouted seed produced 10 tons 16 cwt., 6 cwt. being small and none diseased; unsprouted produced 8 tons 13 cwt., 6 cwt. being small and none diseased; the plot was on a rather poor farm belonging to one of the agricultural teachers, 39471-3.—Experimental plots were a quarter or an eighth of an acre, 39475.—Varieties of soil in Tyrone were many; plots selected represented most classes of soil there, 39474, 39477.

HORTICULTURE AND BEE-KEEPING.

Horticulture and bee-keeping instruction was intended to benefit occupiers of small holdings; land in Tyrone was high; had a large rainfall and low average temperature, and soil was not favourable to cottage gardens; cultivation of vegetables and fruit, especially bush fruit for market and home consumption, required encouragement, 39479.—A scheme for that purpose had been at work three years; there was a large market for apples and for black currants; the latter grew well in boggy soil, and were sold for preserves and medicine, 39480-5.—Six horticultural demonstration plots had been established, chiefly near National schools, and a certain supply of seed, manure, and fruit-trees was given to owners on condition he supplied labour; scheme had resulted in planting of many fruit trees and increase in culture of vegetables; the people now consumed vegetables formerly unknown to them, 39482, 39483.—Ground suitable for fruit growing was difficult to find; hilly places had been tried; apple trees were successful about Stewarstown and Clogher Valley; pears would not grow in Tyrone generally, 39485-7.—Apple trees in blossom might be seen at demonstration plot near Gortin, but the trees were young, 39488-91.—Late frosts interfered with apple crop, 39491.—Sir Horace Plunkett had carried out near Dromore an experiment for improving standard of living among Irish peasantry, and had assisted forty small occupiers to establish fruit and vegetable gardens; Committee had allowed county instructor to assist with advice; the general results were satisfactory, 39491.—This experiment had been two years at work; it illustrated the value of concentrating attention on a small area, 39491a.—Remnants of old orchards were found on many farms in Tyrone, 39492.

POULTRY REARING.

The sale of poultry products was the main source from which the very poor obtained many of the necessities and all the luxuries of their lives; Tyrone

DALLINGER, Mr. P. G.—continued.

Committee was one of the first to attempt improvement of poultry keeping industry on Department's lines; lectures at first evoked criticism but awakened interest; instructors paid one visit to each district in eighteen months under lecture system and one in visiting season; lecture period was October to March, visiting season April to September, 38492-3.—Stations for distributing eggs of pure-bred birds at 1s. a dozen had been in operation since 1902; up to 1906 10,000 strings of pure-bred eggs of fowls, geese, and ducks had been distributed; new blood has thus been introduced, size of eggs increased, prevalence of disease checked, and a prospect afforded of having more suitable birds for fattening; eight stations for providing eggs of geese had been established; in poor districts demand for them outstripped supply; instructors spent much time visiting individual poultry keepers in more remote districts; instruction was given in tussing, and in grading and packing eggs, 38494.—A portable poultry farm was used; it could be set up at a centre for six weeks and then moved on; it had two pens of fowls, one of ducks; means for artificial incubation and rearing of chickens, a small fattening plant, diagrams and drawings illustrating the structure and different breeds of fowls, means for preparing food; the farm had been in constant eleven months; girls had attended regularly even in depth of winter, 38494-5.

AGRICULTURAL CLASSES.

Instruction in technical agriculture had been given in winter classes held in remote places in October of 1905 to March of 1907 to teach those who could not travel far; this scheme tended to impress on the agricultural workers the dignity and necessity of honest and intelligent work, and to elevate the standard of living and of agricultural methods, 38495-6.—Standard of living could be improved by increase of domestic thrift without increase of cost, 38510-1.—Any young fellow in the county could attend classes on passing examination, showing he could work first four rules of arithmetic, and write a simple composition on some farming subject; students received free dinners and £1 per mile for travelling expenses if they showed satisfactory progress; funds were supplied from joint fund of County and Department; classes lasted from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.; they were held two days a week; teachers gave theoretical teaching and also practical instruction on farms, 38496, 38516-7.—Average attendance at classes was about twelve; attendance was most difficult to obtain in poorer districts; the examination was intended to be mainly a test of intelligence, but a knowledge of simple arithmetic was essential for calculating the value of manure; in poorer districts young men were ignorant even of these rules, 38496, 38499, 38512.—It would be useless to ask Department for funds for such preliminary training as arithmetical teaching as Department's money was only for technical instruction, 38497-8.—These classes were specially required by poorer districts, 38505-8.—Any man or boy above age of sixteen was eligible for classes, 38512-5.—Students who passed through the classes with credit served as examples to others; a final examination was held at close of course and book prizes given; students passing final examination with special credit might receive scholarships, 38517-8.

LIVE STOCK SCHEMES.

Live stock schemes adopted by County Committee of Tyrone were those for improving breed of horses, cattle, and swine; Committee offered twenty nominations to farmers' maps each year, two-thirds of the nominations were for mares of farmers with a valuation under £50, one-third to those with valuation above £50, 38518, 38520-2.—In Tullisk district twenty-one nominations were offered in the previous year, six went to men whose valuation was under £50, two to men with valuation under £10; few men with valuation under £10 kept a horse, 38521.—Nominations were not graduated in regard to the fact that four-ninths of funds came from races and three-ninths from Department, 38523.—Premium bulls could not easily find purchasers in needy districts; two years ago a premium bull had been located at Greenacree, having been sold to purchaser at loss to Department, the object being to improve milk supply;

DALLINGER, Mr. P. G.—continued.

the stock seemed to have been good, but the first results were perhaps not satisfactory; it was impossible to guarantee any particular production from an animal, 38518-9.—Farmers desiring young stock for sale objected to introduction of milk bulls; a short-horn would answer both for stock and milk production, 38547-8.—There were many creameries in Tyrone, 38459.—Farmers desiring premium bulls visited a show named by Department and selected animals approved for premiums, 38526.—The fact that the bull had been approved for premium raised its price, 38524-5, 38527.—Fifteen premiums for boars were given in Tyrone, needy districts getting a large share, 38529.

PRIZES.

Names of prize-winners were set forth in report; claim one was limited to persons who did not hold twenty-five statute acres of land and who earned their living by agricultural labour or labour connected with agriculture; prizes were won in several poor districts, one prize went in direction of Mountfield, 38530-1, 38538.—For cottage and small farm scheme the county was divided into arbitrary divisions, each to receive £40 worth of prizes, many of which had been won by small occupiers in poorer districts; holdings competing were examined by a qualified judge, who gave advice on manuring, sanitation, etc., 38531, 38719.—There were six classes for prizes, only one being for men of £25 valuation and over, 38730-2.

SHOWS.

In making grants in aid for shows Committee endeavoured to provide for smallest farmers, and insisted on a class for those under £30 valuation; practically a free entry was allowed farmers in Flenabridge and surrounding districts in competitions for cattle and poultry, and in some cases horses and swine, £30 being set aside for prizes in these competitions, 38535-6, 38540-1, 38730-1.—A witness had stated it was not worth while to compete for prizes of £2, £1 10s., and £1; present witness would think it worth while to walk to Omagh from Gortin for £2, 38730-1.—This scheme had failed though advertised by County Committee at expense of joint fund; it was tried for three years, 38540, 38732-4.—There were never more than three or four entries for these competitions, they were for the poorest districts, 38735-9.—Committee always insisted on one competition for hollies between £20 and £25 valuation; in Dungannon show, which was about to take place, the valuation had been lowered, 38742.—A small local exhibition in a district outside Gortin had been a success and a society had since been formed there which held annual shows, 38540.—It had not been found that in poorest districts extensive occupations could outdistance small men in competing for prizes, 38539.

O'DOHERTY, Rev. PHILIP.

See pp. 122-3.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL NEEDED IN CLAUDY PARISH.

Witness was Parish Priest of Claudy, County Derry; part of the Parish was in Tyrone, 38537.—Parish greatly needed agricultural schools, such as existed a couple of generations ago at Lough Ash and Eglington; Lough Ash School was partly National, and was supported by some private contributions; men educated at these schools were afterwards leaders in their own districts, 38537.—Department's scheme had been few, and not practical, 38542-3.—County schemes had done nothing to benefit Claudy, 38570.

SHIRT AND UNDERCLOTHING INDUSTRIES.

Shirt industry and making underclothing employed girls of Claudy, and had been introduced by late Mr. Tilly, of Derry; it was prosperous; machinery had caused a lowering of wages, and girls worked long hours, to injury of their health, though the work of the parish had a good name among leading houses; work was less plentiful than formerly; a day was lost in taking work to centres, 38537-8.

O'DOHERTY, REV. PHILIP—continued.

CASTING THE ONLY INDUSTRY FOR MEN.

Many farms were mortgaged; men worked at casting, the only work available, which was wretchedly paid; the journey to Derry occupied the whole day, and returned the earlier until for work next day, 38559-61.—Casting had demoralised almost all the men, and the temptation to drink was great on wet days, 38561-2.—Payment to casters was sometimes in kind, 38560, 38562.

QUESTION OF RAILWAY COMMUNICATION.

The construction of a railway to Derry might destroy the casting industry, but make others possible; large part of North Derry was a rich district without railway accommodation, so that a railway there should pay; the poverty of the district near Park might prevent the railway there from being remunerative, 38560, 38562.—Weaving was formerly common in Clady, 38560.

SCHEDULING OF DISTRICT DESIRABLE.

Scheduling of the district under Congested Districts Board was very desirable; surface and main drainage were needed; portions of the country would lend themselves to re-afforesting, 38562.—The presence of large farms in this part should not militate against scheduling; generally those large farms were composed of smaller ones whose owners had disappeared, 38563-5.—Clady Parish was smaller than the Cundomagh district of Inishowen; Clady was completely out of the world, 38566-8.—Witness adopted the evidence given during the day as to other places as applying to his case, 38569.

M'CULLAGH, MR. HUGH.

See pp. 123-4.

WITNESS'S FARM AT GARTVAGH.

Gartvagh was witness's residence, 38571.—He had a farm two and a half miles north of Gortin; it consisted of forty acres of mountain land and fourteen acres of arable, and was divided, generally speaking, into five acres of oats, three or four of lea, grazing for cattle, and four acres of meadow, 38574-5, 38577-8.

VALUE OF AN ACRE OF OATS.

In witness's district an acre of oats needed hard work to raise and yield about sixty stone, 38572, 38573.—The oats fetched about 7½d. per stone, or 43 10s. per acre; an Irish acre last year produced about 105 stone of oats, which sold at 7½d., 38580-1.—Out of witness's four-acre meadow four or five tons might be cut or used, 38582.—A ton of hay might be sold in winter at an auction for 1s. 6d. or 2s. per cwt., 38583.—Witness had five milk cows, and reared three or four calves a year; he sold milk to the creamery, 38584-6.

CLARKE, MR. CHARLES E.

See pp. 124-5.

FARM AT GLENMAGG, GORTIN.

Witness resided at Glenmagg, Gortin, where he began to farm in 1853; he purchased the tenant right of three farms; one contained 21 acres, valuation 23 15s.; one 25 acres, valuation 24; one 19 acres 2 rods, valuation 25 10s.; the three together yielded only a poor living, 38587-8.—Two of the farms were bought from occupiers who had gone to the wall through poverty, the third was bought by private negotiation; these farms, and those in the district generally began at a burn, and ran to top of the mountain; each of the three farms had a few acres along the river which were liable to floods, causing loss of crops; witness did not know whether to grow or meadow these acres; he had made embankments; one-third of the farm was too steep to work; one-third was better and level in places; this he tried to farm; most of the other third was dry heath, no good for cattle, and too small in area for sheep; about fifteen acres of the three farms was arable; witness

CLARKE, MR. CHARLES E.—continued.

had tried every improvement to labour this land; he enlarged fields by removing stone ditches; he bought a reaping machine, but the wheel stuck in the ridges and the knives became clogged, and when the ridges were removed the land became too damp; witness understood farming, but, with sufficient capital and using all the skilled labour procurable, he could not live on his three farms, which were a fair specimen of holdings between Plumbridge and Doons; consequently farmers with no capital could obviously not live on smaller holdings, 38588-90, 38593-4, 38615.

SIGN OF AN ECONOMIC HOLDING.

To enable farmers to live the district should be scheduled, 38591.—The district was a series of mountain ranges, the chief being the Sperrin, 2,840 feet, the Glenties and the Mullagharn, each about 1,800 feet, 38592.—An economic farm on medium soil in this part of Tyrone should comprise fifty acres, which would employ two horses; with one horse tilling could not be done nor machinery worked; on better soil forty acres might be just enough, 38593-5, 38601-2.—Valuation of forty acres of best land in this district would be about 412, 38595-6.—Fifty acres for each holder in Tyrone were not obtainable, 38596.—The present holdings could not be made economic, but could be greatly improved by drainage, thorn hedges, and planting, 38596, 38611-5.

DESIRABILITY OF A WOOLLEN INDUSTRY.

Black-faced sheep to number of 35,000 or 35,500 were kept in this district; a woollen industry might be started and machines worked by the water-power of the rivers to produce rough cloth, tweeds, frieze, blankets, etc., 38617.

LIME.

Lime had to be fetched from Cookstown, involving great expense; lime was absolutely necessary for this poor soil; there was a splendid limestone quarry near Plumbridge which should be worked.

NECESSITY FOR A RAILWAY.

A railway from Danamaghy to Cookstown, on a broad, not narrow, gauge would be of greatest value, 38617.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT'S SCHEMES.

Agricultural Department's schemes had been useless in poor districts of Tyrone, though rates were paid, 38618-9.—Witness had had great difficulty in disposing of a heifer bred off a Government bull, 38620-2.—Information given through lectures on fowl could as well be got from newspapers; prizes offered in Gortin and Greenacree were too small to be worth the expense of competing, 38622-3.

M'BRIDE, MR. PATRICK.

See pp. 126-5.

GLASS FARMERS.

Witness resided in Gloughroughglo, and represented Glenties Electoral Division and Killyman east of Mount Hamilton, 38624.—He had a farm of sixteen acres, and was paying to Irish Land Commission; he was one of the Glass farmers who bought under Act of 1859, at 20 years' purchase of the old rack rents; the full purchase money was not advanced, and one-fourth was paid down, 38625-6, 38628.

PURCHASE OF ESTATES.

In Glenties Electoral Division no holdings had been sold under Act of 1903; in Glenmagg Mr. Humphrey's estate was sold at an exorbitant price, equivalent to 24½ years' purchase, to which tenants were practically forced to agree, as they were in arrears; in Mount Hamilton Division tenants were offered 17 years' purchase, under Ashbourne Act of 1886, but under Act of 1903 the demand was 27½ years, a price which would swamp any tenant, at least while annuities ran; in Glenties Division the only estate purchased was Clagherny Glade, in 1856, under Irish Church Temporalities Act; it was sold at twenty

M'BRIDE, Mr. PATRICK—continued.

years' purchase, a price so high that many tenants had to borrow the fourth of the purchase money to pay Irish Land Commission; annuities and interest on money borrowed had obliged many to sell their farms, and others had to go away to earn money to redeem their farms, one of the largest of which was now vacant in consequence, and returning to its original un-reclaimed state, 38623, 38635-6.

CONVEYANCE OF FARMS—VARIOUS HOLDINGS AVAILABLE FOR ENLARGEMENT OF FARMS.

Farms in this district were very small and uneconomic; tenants were greatly dependent on remittances from relatives in America or England and Scotland; portions of Electoral Divisions of Glenclark consisted of a large grazing ranch belonging to Colonel Lowry of Pomeroy; Robert M'Kelvey, Esq., J.P. of Gortin, had a grazing ranch containing 637 acres, in townlands of Aughtoy and Logloughlin, in Glenclark Division; adjoining these ranches was a small rundale estate, with very small fields and no fences, 38625.—Grazing land would be very valuable to tenants in these districts, 38627.—Tenants had not brought the rundale estate; they were far from markets and railroads; Derry was twenty-five miles, Cookstown twenty-one or twenty-two; enlargement of holdings was desirable, and several holdings were available for the purpose; a new road and a bridge were urgently needed from Logloughlin to Carramore road; one-eighth of Mount Hamilton Division was very poor arable land reclaimed within the last sixty years, and now returning to its original state owing to emigration; the number of families in this division had decreased by forty-five in thirty years; in last twenty years scarcity of labour had necessitated substitution of horse for spade labour; as a result corn crops had deteriorated by one-half, 38628.

LIME.

Drawing and burning of lime had ceased, as young men went to Great Britain to work in summer; an engine to crush limestone for the land was now much needed, 38628.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Witness agreed with previous witnesses regarding utility of agricultural schemes; the local Agricultural Committee had given nothing but four lectures in the winter for small occupiers in Glenclark; the schemes had been in operation four years, 38629-34.—Valuation of Glenclark was £1,030, 38632.

DONNELL, Mr. JOHN.

See pp. 126-7.

WITNESS'S FARM.

Witness was a farmer residing at Ballinaght, Strabane; he had about seventy-five acres of arable land, and a share of an undivided mountain, about 400 or 500 acres; his rent was £12, his valuation £47, 38637-8.

PERPETUAL TENURE.

His lease was for ever; it had been given 120 years ago to John Stewart, who owned the property for three miles below Dunamannagh and three above Planbridge; he sold it to his tenants; each tenant, to qualify him to be a freeholder, had a lease of three lives; Sir John Stewart Hamilton was in difficulties, and would give a lease of lives renewable for ever for £2 or £3 if attorney's expenses were paid; much of the district thus became freehold, 38638-9.

NEED FOR SCHOOLS.

It would be a great advantage if the seven electoral divisions of Lislea, Planbridge, Glenties, Glenclark, Mount Hamilton, Stranagilly and Loughash were scheduled under Congested Districts Board, as they received practically no help from Committee of Agriculture, 38640, 38642.—Witness was personally acquainted with the need of scheduling in neighbourhood of Draperstown, 38655-6.

DONNELL, Mr. JOHN—continued.

WORK OF COUNTY COMMITTEES UNFAVOURABLY COMPARISONED WITH WORK OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Witness objected to the system of election of County Committees; the poor districts were not represented on them, 38640-5.—Witness had seen good results of Board's work in Donegal; it contrasted favourably with the poor results of work of County Committee of Tyrone regarding live stock schemes, 38646-50.—Prising was given in Tyrone to Short-horn and Aberdeen Angus bulls, which were suitable for the richer districts, whereas for the poorest mountain districts Galloway, West Highland, and Kerry bulls were wanted, 38651-4.—Congested Districts Board sent Galloway bulls to mountainous places, 38655.—Witness thought County Committee's members were all drawn from the richer districts, 38653.

RAILWAY.

A railway from Cookstown to Dunamannagh would improve produce markets in Planbridge, etc., 38656.

HARKIN, Mr. JOHN.

See p. 127.

BELLAMUTE, STRABANE.

Witness resided at Bellamute, Strabane, and represented Loughash division, 38657.—He did a little farming, but worked at butter and eggs and attended markets; Loughash division was very mountainous; soil poor, chiefly of light top, and the bottom wet; both arterial and field drains were needed; open drains in low land and stone drains in high land, 38658-60, 38663-3.—Tenants were too poor to make drains, tenants were greatly dependent on relatives in America and Scotland, 38661.

ACCESS TO MARKETS.

Distance to markets was—Strabane 12 miles; Derry 15 miles; the journey took from 2 a.m. till late in the morning, 38662.—A railway from Dunamannagh to Cookstown, 30 miles, was desirable, 38664, 38667-9.

LEASE AND RAILWAY COMMUNICATION.

There were limestone quarries ten or fifteen miles away where at present there was no lift, but which the railway would make available, 38664, 38670.—There should be a station near the quarries; the line should touch Planbridge and Greencastle, and pass by Gortin; from Dunamannagh, it could run up a nearly level valley; little cutting would be necessary, 38671-4.

M'CAUGHEY, Mr. WILLIAM.

See p. 128.

WITNESS'S FARM.

Witness was a small farmer near Dunamannagh, in Loughash division of Strabane Union; he held about ten acres, six being arable; rent was £1 17s. 6d., valuation, 25s.; the arable was poor, and had been reclaimed from the heather; on part the plough could be used; the rest was worked by the spade, 38675-7.—Witness had two cows; he sold some of the butter, 38684-5.—Calves he sold as year-olds, 38686-7.—He kept pigs and a horse; the farm alone would not support a home, so he took contracts on the roads, 38688-91.

NEED OF ENLARGEMENT OF LOUGHASH HOLDINGS.

Holdings were too small; there were no grazing farms near, but farms in the district were being sold by auction at low prices, and if bought by a public body might be used for enlarging holdings, 38678-83, 38691, 38696, 38699-700.—Thirty-six acres was the average holding in Loughash, but some of the farms were large, and land was very poor, chiefly reclaimed from the mountain, 38693-4, 38697.—No improvements would make the present holdings pay; they were fairly well cultivated; there had been an agricultural farm with a teacher in the neighbourhood, 38695.

M'CAUGHEY, Mr. WILLIAM—continued.

MINES, RAILWAY, LIME, &c.

Witness agreed with Mr. Moore about mines, railway, and limestone; a great deal of bog could be utilized, 36700.

O'NEILL, Mr. ARTHUR.

See pp. 128-9.

FAIRM OF WITNESS.

Witness was a farmer at Carrickreen, in Strangul-willy division of Slaneau, Union; he had 150 acres purchased under Act of 1905, yearly payment being 25 £s., paid in half-yearly instalments; valuation was 29 10s.; forty acres of the holding was a shaling bog worth nothing, but peat could be obtained from it; about sixteen acres were arable, but much of this was waste, 36701-3.

NEED OF A RAILWAY.

An expedition to Strabane or Derry market took twenty-four hours; cartage made all goods from shops very expensive; a light railway was desirable, 36704-5.—It would come within two miles of witness's holding, and run from Derramannagh past Plumbridge and Gortin, 36706.—The present line to Derramannagh was a narrow gauge, 36707.—A railway would greatly benefit the short and underclothing industry; at present girls had to walk seven miles with the finished work, 36708-1.

LIME.

Witness obtained lime from a neighbouring quarry; there was another three miles away on the Derry side, 36709-10.

SHEEP.

Sheep were numerous, and planting to make shelter for them very desirable; at present expense was caused by the necessity of sending sheep to lower grazing grounds for winter, as the mountain grass could not support them, 36711.—The mountain side was at present nothing but bog, 36712.

O'REILLY, Rev. PATRICK.

See pp. 131-2.

KINAWLEY PARISH.

One-third of witness's parish of Kinawley was in County Cavan, the rest in Fermanagh; neighbourhood was mountainous, land cold and boggy, much reclaimed bog, 36758.—Climate cold; oats seldom ripened, they were used as fodder; potato crop sometimes fair, inferior to other parts of county; Government had to start relief works in Strangul-willy two or three years ago to help the poor after failure of potato crop, 36759-60.—Wet the principal factor of a bad year; good crop in dry season, 36761.

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVED CONDITIONS OF PEOPLE.

People's condition could be improved in many ways; improved communication would enable people in mountain to take milk to creameries; money could be advanced for improvements in the same way as by Parish Committees; only way that witness had known Government money do good, 36761-7.

TRAFFIC FACILITIES.

Hardly any roads to mountain districts, 36762.—Short railway wanted from Bawnboy to Maguire-bridge, round Brackley Lake to Swandahar; was surveyed by Government, but the scheme fell through; it would give employment and develop neighbourhood; would pass close to the three creameries and better price would be obtained for butter, 36769.—The route either from Bawnboy to Maguire-bridge or to Florence Court would suit, 36770, 36766.—People would get better price for produce and be encouraged to improve holdings, 36796.—Mr. Wyndham had supported scheme in Parliament; Mr. T. M'Govern took an interest in it, 36797.—Opposition arose from selfishness, it would direct traffic from Sligo to Newry, 36798, 36800.—And it would have developed sales of

O'REILLY, Rev. PATRICK—continued.

Arigna, 36799.—Recommendation to carry out small section of railway would not arouse such opposition, 36801.—Sulphur and magnesia spas in neighbourhood were famous in 18th century, but had lost ground for want of railway, 36770-1.—Steel spa near Swandahar; few people came to partake of water, 36771-2.

LACE CLASS.

Lace class was the only industry besides creameries, 36772.—Class for girls only, sixty on the roll, thirty attended; no room for more, but no more came, 36774. 6.—Wages 5s. to 7s. a week, 36777.

EMIGRATION.

Great deal of emigration from district; bulk of it was to America, but many went to Glasgow, where they often remained permanently, 36779-80.

SIZE AND VALUATION OF HOLDINGS.

Loed Erne was the biggest landowner in vicinity; property in Fermanagh; had no residence in the place; agent lived in Lismacrea or Dublin, 36781-3.—Kinawley parish in Strangul-willy division, 36794.—5,770 holdings in parish, 1,063 not exceeding 24 valuation, 1,247 not exceeding 210, 839 between 210 and 415, 2,356 between 420 and 630, 96 not exceeding 610, 36775.—Size varied, 36785.—Holdings under 210 were numerous, 36786.

QUESTION OF LAND FOR ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS.

Little unoccupied land in neighbourhood; a few holdings belonging to Mr. Johnston of Bawnboy might be divided, 36787.—Witness knew Bawnboy well, 36788.—No hope for improvement of the 63 per cent. unoccupied holdings in union unless there were farms in the vicinity to be divided; there were none in witness's parish, 36790-1.—Two farms of 29 and 35 Irish acres; a few large farms in Fermanagh part of parish, 36792.—Landlord held them and stocked them, 36793.—One large holding near Bawnboy recently divided and given to evicted tenants through Estates Commissioners, 36794.

M'MANUS, Mr. BERNARD.

See pp. 132-4.

NATURE OF LAND.

Swandahar dispensary district was mainly mountainous; witness knew it well, also whole of Bawnboy Rural District; land was inferior, 36802.

LAND PURCHASE SALES.

Land purchase sales under Ashbourne Acts had taken place in district; price was 15 years' purchase, 84 to 25 years' asked now, 36803, 36804, 36805.—Lord C. Beresford was asking 34 years' purchase on second term rents, 36805, 36805-7.—Tenants would not pay so much; they thought the taxes would be heavier and that they would have to pay for drainage as well, 36808, 36812-15.—Mr. Tyrrell would sell now for reduction of 4s. in the £ on judicial rents and 6s. on non-judicial rents, that would cover arrears, 36809, 36811-2.—A great many estates in upper part of Bawnboy Rural District were sold under Ashbourne Act, 36809.—A good many were sold under 1903 Act in County Cavan, 36841.—Price under latter Act varied, 21 years' purchase on second term rents in some cases, 36842-3.—Under Ashbourne Act some tenants bought before rents were fixed, 36845.—No justification for asking 21 years' purchase under Act of 1903 when price under Ashbourne Act was 15 or 16 years' purchase, 36847.—Markets had not improved, 36848.—Price of produce was reduced, 36849.—Crops not so good, if conditions had changed at all it was in wrong direction, 36850.—County Council should have a voice in sale and purchase under Act of 1903, as ratepayers were ultimate security for annuities, 36852.—Better if it were more often left to Estates Commissioners to decide, 36853.

QUESTION OF ARREARS BEING USED AS AN INSTRUMENT TO INDUCE DEBTORS TO AGREE TO HIGH PRICES.

Tenants in arrears gave a price the Estates Commissioners would not give, 36854.—Arrears always brought into question of price; landlord offered to

M'MANUS, Mr. BERNARD—continued.

throw off so much arrears in order to get price, 38855.—Cause of increase in price partly arrears, 38856.—Partly so many men wanted land that they gave more for it than it was worth, 38857.—With ownership they could make improvements; in one mountain district a landlord refused to allow reclamation or sale of a crabe of turf to pay the rent, 38858-61.—Property with large arrears would fetch higher price than when rent was well paid if arrears were thrown off; it happened constantly, though witness knew of no actual case, 38862-5.—Arrears more general on some estates than on others, but it depended greatly on individuals, so might be used against individuals, 38867-9.

RELIEF WORK.

Relief works had been established in electoral divisions of Bertrick, Pedersham, Templeport, Kinawley, Swallowham, and Tereham, where people were on uneconomic holdings, 38818.—It had been going on for twenty years; two years ago witness applied to have 13th section of Local Government Act put into operation, County Council did so; last year inspector from Local Government Board came down and found such want that he got grant of £250 from Government for seed potatoes; men were hired by a committee appointed and paid in seed potatoes at rate of eighteen pence a day, 38816-8.—They made roads; Father O'Reilly wanted something similar done in mountainous parts; people willing to work at anything if they were paid, 38819.

ARTIFICIAL MANURE.

Artificial manure brought by Department to plots to show what it could do; that did for a year or two; not so good for the future as drainage and planting, 38819.

PLANTATIONS.

Timber would soon be a thing of the past if there were no planting; it was nearly all cut away and there was no shelter, 38819.—Landlords owned wood, tenants could not cut it, 38820.—Woods sold before estates; had been done on Lord C. Beresford's property, 38821-2.—Extensive woods on property an element in price paid by tenants, 38823.—Wood belonged to landlord and was retained by him, 38824-5.—Witness thought he had heard of such a case at Garadice, 38826-7.—Plantation of shelter belts in each farmer's place wanted, 38829-30.—Department should supply plants; land not good; some or two would not be missed, 38830-1.—It would have to be enclosed for some years; would be of value in twenty years, 38832.—Useful if Agricultural Board supplied trees at nominal price for farmers to plant; much land not fit for crops would grow timber, 38834.—Larch and spruce the best trees, 38835.—Always a market for larch, it was getting scarce in the country, 38836-7.

DRAINS AND ROADS.

Big drains and roads would be very beneficial, 38839-9.

RAILWAY.

Railway from Bawboly to Florencecourt would be useful, and route would be shorter than to Maguinness-bridge; the latter was a light railway; there would be no transshipment there, 38837.

MGAURAN, Rev. THOMAS.

See pp. 134-5.

MORLEY ESTATE.

Morley Estate was in same district; it comprised 12,000 acres; valuation £3,931; was purchased over heads of tenants by former agent in 1921 for £23,000, conveyed on same day to a syndicate for consideration of 10s.; at time of transaction there was £17,000 arrears on estate; soil yellow "dash" with mixture of sand rangers to cattle and crops, 38870.

CONDITION OF LAND AND PEOPLE.

Best of the land was at present under the hulklock, the people having been hulklocked at time of famine to mountains and foreign countries; remaining people

MGAURAN, Rev. THOMAS—continued.

were half-fed, half-died, country a barren wilderness, children degenerate; youth of the country went to America as soon as old enough, leaving aged and children to look after homes, result was land not enough tilled, children could not go to school, every one dependent on credit waiting for "American dollar," if shopkeeper refused credit nothing was left but emigrate ship or workhouse; scheduling district necessary, not done before on account of action of Lord Belmore, population small because so-called good lands were in hands of graziers, to remedy that Board should have compulsory powers and increased revenue, 38870.

COMPULSORY POWERS AND INCREASED REVENUE FOR CONVEYED DISTRICTS BOARD ADVOCATED.

Impossible to put an end to congesting without compulsion, 38870.—Many owners would not give up lands without compulsion as matter what price was offered, 38860, 38877.—Representative of County Council should be on Board, with increased powers the latter could then form Parish Committee, enlarge uneconomic holdings, migrate people to good lands, assist to drain, make roads, and plant useless land, 38870.

KILLINAGH TOWNSHIP.

Enniskillen Rural District No. 2 comprised area of 40,877 acres; valuation £8,383; population 6,377, in 1903; townlands in parish of Killinagh and their average valuation were: Monasteriff, £3 6s. 5d.; Derraseer, £3 6s. 6d.; Stranmore, £12 17s., 38870.—Ninety-two per cent. of holdings under £10 v. valuation, 38874.

GRASS FARMS.

Witness also gave a list of the grass farms, giving owners, valuation, and names of places—Mrs. Power—Tham, £262 15s., Loughan, £90 10s., Roe, £90, Carrickabreenan, £40; John Nixon—Kinnaboe, £55 10s., Mullaghoeey, £43 17s., Donkield, £31 10s., Killyglasson, £24; Wm. Carson—Carracashel, £60, Tallagharmoy, £40, Carradownough, £32 10s., Corradree, £9 5s., Shroffonagh, £17 10s., Tullinamale, £10, Garraque, £15 5s.; Hugh Maguire—Port, £26 5s., Killycarnoy, £38 15s.; Anthony Cassidy—Corrales, £10 5s.; T. Corradon—Barran, £48 10s.; Miss Nixon—Tigelt, £32 10s.; H. O'Callan—Torte, £20; J. O. Dolan—Torteen, £20; Tom Patterson—Uneshogher, £16; J. Bracken—Barren, £42; C. Bracken—Tortee, £53 10s.; J. Tubman—Barran, £9 15s.; all these lands were under hulklocks, none were tilled, 38870-L.—All in Killinagh parish and Enniskillen No. 2 Rural District, 38873.—Ranches stocked by owners, 38875.—Average size of ranch fifty to 100 acres, 38875.—They were not home farms of occupiers, people had been gradually evicted and their holdings added, patch by patch, to make ranches, ranches held by yearly rent, 38877.—Few judicial tenancies, 38878.—Owners had residential farms and took ranches in addition, 38879-80.—Only two or three of above occupiers lived on farms mentioned, 38881.—Distance between residential and non-residential farms from a quarter of a mile to nine miles, 38882.—Essential to get these non-residential farms if holdings were to be made economic, 38883.

MORLEY ESTATE—PURCHASE NEGOTIATIONS.

In purchasing Morley Estate Commissioners must take all or none, 38884.—Greater part of farms mentioned were on Morley Estate, 38885.—Estate had been inspected at suggestion of Estates Commissioners, negotiations had been entered into between syndicate and tenants, report had gone in, 38886-9.—Case came into superior courts when tenants were wanted to acknowledge sale to syndicate; Mr. Healy represented the tenants, Mr. Henry, the syndicate; Chief Justice O'Brien, before whom it came, suggested that counsel on the two sides should be appointed arbitrators, so Mr. Healy and Mr. Henry went to estate and drew up award for people to buy at certain number of years' purchase, grass farms excluded from award, great number of people accepted agreement for purchase; when these were examined by Estates Commissioners they refused to declare properly an estate so negotiations ended, 38890.—Morley Estate ought to be scheduled, 38891.—Enlargement by adding grass lands the only way of making holdings economic, 38892.—Grass lands excluded from settlement because

M'GAURAN, Rev. THOMAS—continued.

owners wished to retain them, 38885.—It would have been wise to include them, 38894.—There were other grass farms besides those on Morley Estate; impossible to acquire these without compulsion, 38895-6.

CONVULSION AGAINST DIRECT SALE.

Sale of property such as Morley Estate should not be direct to tenants but through Estate Commissioners, who could utilise grass lands to enlarge small holdings; small holdings should not be conveyed to occupiers until such land as was available had been added to them to enlarge them, 38901-2.—Syndicate's object in selling estate was purely to make money, 38903-4.

ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.

The electoral divisions, with their valuations per head, were: Derrylahan, £1 2s. 9d.; Derrymount, £1 4s. 7d.; Derrymount, £1 1s. 8d.; Killynagh, £1 7s. 10d.; Easkey was higher as it contained some of the grass lands, some of the latter were also in Derrymount, there were none in the first four divisions, which showed that they raised the valuation; Derrylahan, Derrymount, Derrymount, and Killynagh would be scheduled were it not that 20 per cent. of population of Cavan did not reside in districts of that class, 38910-14.

DOLAN, Mr. PATRICK.

See pp. 138-4.

CONDITION OF ENNISKILLEN No. 2 RURAL DISTRICT.

Forcery of Enniskillen No. 2 Rural District was due to sterility of soil and excessive rents imposed in days gone by; thirty years ago numbers of landlords became bankrupt, their lands were sold in court and purchased by growers who competed with each other knowing they could extort high interest for their money from tenants; one purchaser doubled rents; in 1861 tenants paid two years' exorbitant rent before they could come under Government, nearly all had to draw it out of Bank on a friend's security, and this burden weighed on them to the present time; people could not live without money from friends in America; land rendered unproductive by barrenness of soil consisting of moor, swamps, and morasses, coldness of climate and wetness of land; inhabitants' industries; witnesses had seen them drive twelve or fifteen feet for gravel and carry it on their backs to spread over moor along with lime to improve land; rents raised in many cases when land was reclaimed; valuation of one townland reaching to brow of Cullagh Mountain, £22 5s., it consisted of six holdings, all reaching to summit, 38916.

DRAINAGE REQUIRED.

Drainage required in district, 38915.—Field drainage would do, 38916.—Main drainage insufficient; if it were put in order farmers would drain fields themselves, 38917-8.—Loans on easy terms would be available for that, 38919.—Little field drainage had been done; some farmers might have drain in fields, it was not done in any broad way; no arterial drainage done at all, 38920-2.

MINERAL RESOURCES—TREE PLANTING.

Mountains abounded in valuable minerals; no industrial works carried on; money to aid re-forestation would be a benefit, trees would afford shelter and improve land and climate, 38925.

O'REILLY, Mr. THOMAS.

See p. 136.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS IN COUNTY CAVAN.

Whole County of Cavan could hardly be scheduled; desirable that district from Ballyconnell to Bawnboy in baronies of Tullyhaw and Tullyhannon should be, 38924.

INDUSTRIES.

There were two pipe-day mines within two miles of Ballyconnell, also a first-class limestone quarry to make calcium carbide, and there was peat moss;

O'REILLY, Mr. THOMAS—continued.

plenty of water power, a corn mill, and a saw mill, 38924.—500 or 600 men could be employed with these resources, 38927.—Agricultural and technical instruction almost useless, except as regards woodwork, 38928.

DRAINAGE.

People in district between Bawnboy and the Erne almost ruined by flooding of lands; thousands of acres round Brackley Lake flooded when the rain came; lake should be lowered by opening it into Lough Erne either by Woodford or Swandiliner River; by lowering Woodford River half a mile below Bawnboy fifteen or twenty feet would be taken off lake, no obstacle in river, £150 would do it; Drainage Boards could not lower river beds, 38924-30.

RAILWAY.

Baronial guarantee paid by County Cavan for Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway from Belmullet to Drogheda, £1 in the £ paid by Cavan people; railway from Bawnboy to Maguirebridge or Ballyshannon would divert traffic and therefore increase taxation in Tullyhaw and Tullyhannon, 38930, 38935-6.—Baronial guarantee should be bought off before defecting trade from existing line, 38931.—No objection to new system if it assumed responsibility for existing guarantee, 38932.—Guarantee not limited to any particular figure, £1 in the £ paid in Cavan, 1s. in Leitrim; 5 per cent. had to be paid to shareholders no matter what the cost to the ratepayers, 38933.—New line would not leave old one derelict, only defect a large amount of trade, 38936.

ROADS.

Roads needed, district too poor to make them, if it were scheduled Board could make grants for the purpose; hundreds of farmers without roads and with no means of conveying produce to markets, 38936-7.

SILVIE RUSHEN.

There were 6,600 acres of Silvie Rushen mountain; if portion were planted with timber remainder could be broken up and made into good land, 38936, 38937.—Mountain was in landlords' hands at present, and let for shooting at £20 a year, 38938.—Grazing rights on mountain were of little use, 38939-40.—Witness thought there would be no difficulty about the tenants giving up grazing rights for planting if they saw they would get an improvement, 38941.

FINEGAN, Rev. PATRICK.

See pp. 136-8.

QUESTION OF SCHEDULING OF MOUNTAIN DISTRICTS OF COUNTY CAVAN.

Barony of Tullyhaw and part of barony of Tullyhannon should be scheduled; Tullyhaw partly in Bawnboy, partly in Enniskillen; No. 2 Rural District should be scheduled; much of north-west of County Cavan would come under definition of congested were it not that divisions that ran up to the mountains also went down to plains, thus raising valuation; if Cullagh and Silvie Rushen ranges were scheduled they would include congested portions of Tullyhaw, 38943.—Four divisions on western slope of mountains where the valuation was under 30s. per head; some divisions on eastern slope required scheduling, 38944.

BURRIS TOWNLAND.—BRIDGE NEEDED.

Bridge needed in townland of Burrish across Shannon and Erne Canal; people cut off by canal from church and school; estimated cost £800; too expensive for District Council; if district were scheduled Board could contribute towards expense, local authority finding balance, 38944-5.

VALUATION.

Townland of Burrish large; there were 35 holdings, valuation £297 11s.; one holding valued at £25 5s., average valuation £11 1s., exclusive of large one, 49 14s., or £1 19s. per head, 38945.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE.

Compulsory power needed to settle land question; price of land should be fixed by tribunal consisting of representatives of tenants, landlords, and ratepayers, 38946.

FINEGAN, REV. PATRICK—continued.

CORR, REV. THOMAS—continued.

AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

A great deal of good had been done by agricultural instruction given by County Committee, but not so much in north-west of county, where people did not avail themselves of it, schemes unfeasible; land too poor for arable; anything that gave profit, such as poultry scheme, was taken up, especially that part of it that gave assistance towards a better quality of eggs, 38945.—Committee had to have one scheme for whole county; breed of bulls could be varied to suit different parts, witness believed that had been done, 38945-7.—County too large an area of administration; local committees would be better and would understand needs of people, 38947, 38948, 38952, 38958.—Difficult for representative of north-west district to attend meetings of County Committee, 38948.—Not more expensive to have local committees; voluntary aid would be given, county instructors could be employed and no increase of officers would be needed, 38950-1, 38974.—Agricultural instruction would never be availed of till land question was settled, 38952.—Members of County Committee did not attend regularly, and got out of touch with the work, 38954.—Technical Education Committee should also be small local body, 38955.—Race should be struck over whole county, but amount raised in north-west should be spent locally, together with Department's contribution, within lines laid down by County Committee or Department; if judiciously spent it would be better than at present, 38955-6.—Good thing if special grant were made to poor localities; five-ninths contributed by Department at present; a great deal of good done by instruction schemes, but not as much as was commensurate with expenditure, 38960, 38969.—£13,483 spent on agricultural and technical education since 1903, 38960.—£3,999 19s. 8d. on technical education, of which Department contributed £2,400, and £5,270 12s. 10d. on agricultural instruction; live stock cost £3,767, administration £455 19s. 8d., 38966.

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION.

Expenditure would be more profitable if area of administration were small, committees small, and instruction practical on lines leading to profit, 38970, 38982.—Agricultural and technical instruction should not be aimless, but lead up to some industry; people would not take up aimless instruction, 38981-3.

LACE.

Lace-making where started had been profitable, 38984.—It had not been transmitted from mother to daughter because it did not exist in county till instructors came, 38987.—Manual instruction successful for boys because they turned it to account in their own homes by making gates, etc., 38985-6.—Instruction should be applied to industry people were carrying on, such as cultivating land, 38971-2.—Expenditure would be moderate at first, increasing as necessity arose, 38972.—Cavan County Committee hampered by want of funds for technical instruction, 38978.—Annual income of Committee £200, county contributed £300, Department £400; for some years a credit balance remained; balance allowed to be diverted and instructors in domestic economy and manual instruction were appointed and equipped; when surplus was exhausted no more money was obtainable from Department, and instructors were dismissed and equipment rendered useless, which was a pity, 38975-7.—Committee worked under Acts of 1886, 1891, 1899, for technical instruction, 38980.—Penny in the pound rate in Cavan produced £1,161, 38979.—County Council would not increase rate, 38981.

CORR, REV. THOMAS.

See pp. 138-9.

MINERAL RESOURCES.

There were iron ore and naphtha in bogs in parish, 38984-5.—Iron mines could be worked; there were probably coal mines in parish, too, as turf was of the same kind as at Drumkieran, where there was coal, 38986.—There were also a sulphur spa, a magnesia spa, and iron spa, 38986.

Roads.

Roads required; District Council would not make them; witness had appealed to County Council, who had appealed to Local Government Board, and an inquiry was to be held, 38963, 38965-7, 38962.

PARISH OF GLENGOLVIN.

Witness came from Glengolvin Parish in Enniskillen No. 2 Rural District; it was situated in valley of Cullinagh mountains and bordering on Leitrim, 38983-4.—People were all peasant proprietors except on one little property, 38984, 38983.—District was mountainous; purchase instalments were moderate, and punctually paid; rents had been raised to help landlord, Captain Hazzard, who was in financial difficulties; he was, however, obliged to sell, and the new landlord, Judge Bewley, kept tenants to their premises of higher rents; witness assisted tenants to buy holdings, which they got for the reasonable terms of 14 years' purchase of valuation, 38989-90.—That was before 1903; lands subject to flooding from mountain torrents; had been under water a few days before inspector's visit; good surface clay on property, had been burned away in 1846 and 1848; herbage was poor, cattle grazing on it got rheumatism and had to be fed on bran; crops were very small; people had been wretchedly poor, but were improving now, 38991.—One townland in parish not purchased; two tenants went into court to get rents fixed; agent dealt harshly with the people, and when witness wrote to purchase agent replied landlord had no intention of selling; witness applied to landlord himself, who said he would be willing to sell; witness got agent dismissed, 38997-8.

WOOL.

Woolen factory wanted; there were 3,000 sheep on the mountains, wool fine and made superior cloth; free site for a mill on the banks of Shannon; good building material on the spot; unfeeling supply of water, fall on to wheel would be 40 feet; witness wrote to Agricultural Board about it, but could get no satisfaction, 38992.—No chance to erect factory, some local aid could be got; site within four miles of Belcoo railway station; factory would keep people at home; children were intelligent, a pity they should go to America, 38993.—Thirty tons of wool exported every year, 38994.—Sheep small, good chevrols; people took good care of them, 38995.

GAME.

Peasants had few simple of mountains, everything under surface; game portions were preserved; late Mr. S. Roman spent a lot on the game; Glengolvin game-walks better than Scotch ones, 38997.

ANDERSON, MR. ANDREW.

See pp. 139-40.

POVERTY OF THE PEOPLE IN KINAWLEY.

Witness's farm was at Drumlish, Kinawley, in Enniskillen Parish, 38999.—It consisted of 24 acres, rent £10, valuation, £14 6s., 39000.—In the year after the famine of 1879 there were 400 families in Kinawley parish on relief list, 200 of those in Farranagh part of parish; in 1883 people had to get benefit of Arrears of Rent Act; present rent, etc., paid by money from America, Scotland, Australia; the strong boys and girls emigrated and sent home money; there were 115 small farmers with valuation under £5; 134 between £5 and £7 10s.; 708 between £7 10s. and £10; 189 over £10, non-resident tenants who lived outside parish not included, 39001-2.

UNTENANTED LAND.

There were almost 1,000 acres of untenanted land; one farm of 500 acres and another of 458 acres, both grazing farms; could be purchased for enlargement of small holdings; one man desired to sell some time ago, but found no purchaser, 39001-2.—There was little money in the country to buy land; it was formerly bought by people returned from America, 39003, 39019.—Only demand came from them or from pensioners, 39020-2.—If some of the lands were bought up it would help the people, 39015.

ANDERSON, Mr. ANDREW—continued.

RAILWAY.

Railway suggested would benefit Valley of Kinawley and give access to creameries, 39002.—It would take butter and cream away more conveniently; central creamery was five miles from Florence Court station, eight miles from Ballyconneil; it would benefit to extent of £200 by railway; proposed line would go close to Kinawley and past Sennalishar auxiliary, 39004.

ROADS.

The roads were bad; twelve or thirteen miles of road needed to give people access to church, or their work, or to creameries; three days spent taking produce to market; people would give local aid to roads knowing they would improve future prospects, 39005, 39006, 39004.—Roads had been brought before District Council; a few made, others still unmade, difficult to get anything done; if recommended by District Council County Council often rejected them on advice of County Surveyor; if a grant were made the people could do a good deal themselves, 39005-6.—Some of the roads rejected were new, some were only repairs to old roads; County Surveyor said they were not needed although seventy to one hundred families wanted them, 39010-4.—If some of the more necessary roads were started County Council might keep them in repair; they could not in all cases; it would saddle the rates too much, 39015.

FLOODS.

Rivers flooded district for 600 acres; 175 families affected; bridges required, 39016.—Drainage the main thing; necessity for widening and deepening rivers and keeping them clean; there was sufficient outfall, 39017-8.

CARNEY, Mr. JAMES.

See pp. 140-1.

POVERTY OF WITNESS'S DISTRICT.

Witness resided at Dromela, Killybeg, Killyshearra; Ballinamore Rural District was congested; it comprised eleven divisions, some were scheduled, 39023.—Witness's district was congested, but not scheduled, 39024.—No untenanted land in district; one ranch at Lisnover, within five miles, was being purchased by Estate Commissioners, 39025.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage would improve condition of people, 39022.—Small grant for field drainage would be useful, 39023.—Killybeg River destroyed the country for miles; cattle died from disease due to dirt in flooded hay, 39026.—River should be deepened and widened; raising banks useless, 39027-8.

TURBARY.

Tenantry should have right of turbary where it existed; no tenant should be allowed to absorb bog into their area, 39023.

VALUATION.

Government valuation should not be the standard when scheduling, as three-fourths of tenants of the division might have a very low valuation and remainder a very high valuation, thus preventing majority being scheduled, 39023.

MANURE.

Lime-burning industry would benefit farmers; there was an unlimited supply of lime which could serve as manure when land was drained; farmers got manure on credit from creamery or thoghaeger, 39025.—Creamery had agricultural store and gave manure on credit, 39026.

LAND PURCHASE.

Sir R. Casali's estate offered to tenants under Ashbourne Act at 14½ years' purchase and had now been purchased at 21 years' purchase, 39025, 39028, 39035.—14½ on first term rents meant 17½ on second term

CARNEY, Mr. JAMES—continued.

rents, 39027.—21 years' purchase, plus bonus, and a year's purchase for expenses of clearing title, etc., equalled 25 years' purchase, 39028.—Godley Estate sold under Ashbourne Act at 15 years' purchase with arrears wiped out and free transfer; even at that price inspector refused to sanction advance in many cases and purchase money was reduced; Countess of Leitrim now wanted 36 years' purchase for similar estate and tenants were anxious to buy; the people were unfit to make their own bargains, and would be unable to pay instalments if allowed to purchase, 39029.—Tenantry wanted to get away from landlord, they did not look into the future, and thought by purchasing they would get rid of him, 39031-4.—Offer of 14½ years' purchase of Sir R. Casali considered too high; 21 years paid later because arrears were wiped out; three-quarters of tenants were in arrears, 39035-40.—Purchase prices more than covered arrears, 39041.—Riampagers being security for annuities should have voice in purchase agreements, 39042, 39047.—Tenants on Casali Estate had paid annuities so far, 39043.—Tenants made impudent bargains to escape from their embarrasments, but they should not make bargains they could not keep, 39045-6.—There would be no objection if it was proposed that County Council should have voice in negotiations, 39048.—Witness came from County Leitrim, 39049.—Sum representing £4 in the £ stopped from grants to which Leitrim was entitled because of losses in connection with flotation of stock, etc., 39050-1.

RESISTANCE FROM AMERICA.

Money from America depended on for rent and necessities; more money had come from America during last thirty years than was paid for fee-simple of some estates, or than would buy estate witness lived on at 20 years' purchase; estates were small and the smaller the estate the poorer the tenantry; estate witness lived on purchased by an Irishman in 1870; rent raised to double and sometimes treble what it was before, 39051-2.—Some of the houses not very habitable, 39055.

CLARKE, Mr. PATRICK.

See pp. 141-2.

LACE.

Lace industry had been started for two years in Swansillar, fifty-four girls in class, average attendance thirty-eight or forty, 39058-60.—The lace made was Irish crochet lace; £179 12s. 7d. paid to workers from October 1905-1906; four best workers earned £12 12s. 1d., £15 1s. 5d., £12 12s., £8 12s., respectively, 39061.—Average earnings a little over £4.

TEACHER'S SALARY.

Teacher was qualified for thirty-two pupils and payment was by capitation grant of £2, which meant £64, but she was paid only £22; salary should be fixed, 39062.—Inspector decided who passed examination; pupils not qualified unless they put in a certain number of hours in cookery class; payment of teacher fixed on number of pupils certified, 39064, 39065, 39061.—Teacher only received a fee per head provided funds could be found for it; witness thought the understanding was she would get the full amount she was qualified for, 39063-5, 39062.—Witness thought others were docked in same way, 39072.—Teacher supposed to be paid out of grant, 39068.—Workers not supposed to pay for instruction at first, 39069.—Money for teachers was cut down because there was miscalculation, 39069.—Lace sold by teacher for workers, 39063, 39065.—Class was under county scheme, 39065.—Industry paying as far as workers concerned, 39066, 39070.—Not really a paying concern, 39077.—No credit balance at end of year, 39075.—Merry.—An employment to keep people at home, 39078.—Lace-makers worked at it pretty well, 39081.—Had been at it two years and had every inducement to continue, 39082-3.—It was understood it was a slow process requiring a great attention, 39084.—They continued after leaving school, 39085.—More orders received than could be completed, 39087.—All remuneration supposed to go to workers, 39089.

CLARKE, MR. PATRICK—continued.

LIGHT RAILWAY.

Railway from Bawnboy to Maguiesbridge would be a benefit, as there was no market in Swanlinbar; it cost 6s. or 8s. to take pigs to Keshillan or Ballinamore, 36090.

HOWE, MR. RICHARD.

See pp. 142-3.

OCCUPATION OF WITNESS.

Witness, a shopkeeper in Swanlinbar, with farm of sixty-five acres, for which he paid £23, he had bought out, payment would be less when vesting order was made, 36094.

RAILWAY.

Railway needed; Government should give grant for line from Bawnboy to Maguiesbridge, 36095.—Guarantee of 6d. in the £ on railway from Belturbet to Ballinamore deburred people from offering a further guarantee, 36095, 36102.—Not much benefit from existing line, ratepayers had objected to guarantee, trade of Swanlinbar mostly eastward, 36103-4.—Proposed railway would reduce price of coal by 1s., and flour by 6d., a bag; it would not divert traffic of other lines as it would be connecting line; Government had made an offer which was somewhat blocked, 36095.

SHOOTING BELTS.

Government might give fine to farmers of £10 valuation and under a quantity of quills or larches for planting shelter belts on holdings or worst part of mountain, 36095-6.—Great deal of land was in landlord's hands though not so much as formerly, 36097-8.—Farmers would do it themselves if they got the quills, 36099.

UNIMPROVED LAND.

Swanlinbar was witness's electoral division, 36103.—Farmers needed road; some of them were careless about their holdings, 36105.—Holdings might be enlarged in some instances, 36107.—Not much land available, 36108.

DR. BRADY'S FARM.

Witness was the postmaster, 36110.—He managed Dr. Brady's farm of sixty-six acres in County Fermanagh, it was offered for sale this year, but price formerly offered could not be got, 36111.—Land usually offered by public auction, 36112.—Dr. Brady lived in Australia, he would be glad to sell to Estates Commissioners or Board for fair price, but had had no communication from them, 36113, 36115, 36118.—£430 the lowest price that would be accepted, only £600 offered; Dr. Brady bought place twenty years ago subject to an annuity, he paid one-fourth of purchase price down, amounting to £125, that left instalments very low; they were about £15 now; farms formerly let at £50; Dr. Brady bought at 18 years' purchase, and now possessed both landlord's and tenant's interest, £430 paid for the sixty-six acres, annuity would not soon be extinguished, second decadal reduction was coming on, 36119-24.—Land not let out used for grazing accommodation for people without enough land, 36125-6.—Price for grazing eighteen to twenty shillings for year-olds, twenty to twenty-five shillings for two-year-olds, 36128.—£200 received for grazing in summer; £20 worth of hay sold; no winter stock except nine or ten head of the owner's on which there was profit, 36130.

KEENAN, MR. JOHN.

See pp. 143-4.

CONDITION OF PEOPLE IN BENBRACK, KINAWAY.

Witness's farm at Rockfield, Bawnboy, consisted of thirty-two acres, rent £15 10s., valuation £16 10s.—Valuation of Benbrack electoral division was £650 on land, £70 on buildings; there were 190 houses in division, population was 760, valuation 12s. per head; twenty-nine applications last February from farmers

KEENAN, MR. JOHN—continued.

for relief, but law detained out-door relief to farmers, except in urgent cases; Local Government Board sent inspectors down who recommended Board to give £550 to be earned repairing roads so that farmers might crop ground with seed; this was done, 100 workers were put on three roads, one in Benbrack, one in Templeport, one in Faddagh; the money was almost exhausted, and the same people would be destitute till new crop were reaped, 36131-2.—People unable to build good houses, loan might be given for improvement of out-offices and dwellings, people sometimes fined and made to live in houses but could not do more, 36133-4.—Parish Committees did much good in other districts, a pity the districts mentioned were not scheduled, 36135-6.—One township in Kinaway division, with valuation of £5 15s., had five large families who could not live without children's wages, 36135.

UNIMPROVED LAND.

Plenty of grazing land in neighbourhood without people living on it which could be used to enlarge holdings without migration; there was one farm of forty acres, valuation £12, belonging to Mr. Johnston, and lot for grazing, that and another grass farm were within quarter of a mile of the township with five families and £5 15s. valuation, 36135-40.

RAILWAY.

New railway would benefit district, baronial guarantee now paid for railway ten miles distant from some of the people; people had to leave home in the middle of the night to take pigs to Keshillan market, 36140.—Tax paid by whole barony of Tullyhaw, 36141.—If that were transferred to new railway the people would continue it, 36142.—New line would bring more traffic to old railway, 36143-5.

MAGUIRE, REV. J. R.

See pp. 144-5.

PARISH OF WITNESS.

Evidence confined to electoral units of Leitrim, Roagh Garrison, Inismacaint; district cut off from rest of County Fermanagh, by ridge of mountains on east and south, and by River Erne on north, western side bordered Lethin; deburred from sharing good things of its own county and not entitled to consideration from adjoining counties, should be declared congested, 36145.

VALUATION AND POPULATION.

Population of Leitrim, 462; Valuation on land, £707 15s. or £1 12s. per head; 144 holdings, average valuation 25 10s.; population of Roagh, 385, valuation on land, £690 10s., or £1 15s. per head; 95 holdings, average valuation, £7 3s., 36145.—Valuation of houses excised because they did not contribute to support of people, 36147-8.—Population of Garrison, 765, valuation, £1,713 15s., or 22 11s. per head; 200 holdings, average valuation, 25 11s., including townlands of Freagh Garrison and Blatinagh, valuation would be £1 18s. per head, 27 13s. per holding; population of Inismacaint, 1,303, valuation, £2,325 5s., or £1 15s. per head; 300 holdings average valuation 27 15s.; average valuation on the four divisions, 27 per holding; holdings uneconomic, some valued at less than 25, 36148.

CHARACTER OF LAND.

The land was the worst in Fermanagh; it consisted of mountain covered with heather, farms, or short waxy willow; there was little tillage, what there was was done by reclamation bog; there was only a few inches of soil on hills, sub-soil was barren white sand, one acre of tillage to ten of grazing, and the crops were only good in a favourable year; damp bogs yielded half a crop in a wet season; farms only yielded provision for family for three months, 36148.

MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD.

Store cattle-rearing and milk were the other means of livelihood; animals never put on flesh but grew hard and stunted, only profitable if calves were sold young; grazing also bad for milch cows, rendered

MAGUIRE, Rev. J. R.—continued

cattle liable to cruppan, a disease like rheumatism, from which they could be saved only by repeated doses of bran, little was raised on the farms for hand-feeding except oatmeal, 36143.

EMIGRATION.

There was much emigration; whole family went to America or Scotland except one girl and boy; sons of higher-class farmers might go to a grocery or into the Police, a few went into domestic service, 36148-50.—Money to pay rent came largely from sons and daughters who had emigrated, 36151.

ATTEMPT TO SELL CLASSES.

Cookery class started by Department four years ago; there had been none since, 36151.—Sprigging the only industry, teacher paid by Committee of Technical Education; two classes held in 1906, seventy-five pupils enrolled; average earnings in one school 5s. to 8s. a week, in the other 6s. to 8s.; £330 the total earned by both classes; a little sprigging given out by shopkeepers, not paid so well, 36151.

SIX MONTHS CREDIT SYSTEM.

Want of money at cheap interest a drawback, six-months credit system was ruining the country; farmers bought cows at auction with six months time to pay; they paid more than the market value for them and had the auctioneer's fee as well, also renewal of interest on bill; two or three auctioneers had the parish in their hands, 36151.—People who worked by this system were those with no money, 36156.—At end of six months auctioneer put cattle up for sale or renewed bill at 7 or 10 per cent. interest, 36157.—If the man could not pay in the end he was sold out by auctioneer, 36158.—Easy to get credit, auctioneers obliging, 36162.—Fifty per cent. of the people got credit, individual virtue came in in repaying it, 36165-6.

NEED FOR AGRICULTURAL BANK.

Agricultural bank needed to do away with credit system, desirable that Board should make a grant to start it, 36161.—People would supplement Board's grant when they understood security was good, 36162.—People in this district had not heard of the system; witnesses started one where he was before, which was not a congested district, nor were the people as poor, 36163-6.—If bank paid people would invest their money in it at 4 per cent. rather than in Post Office at 2½, 36166.—After some time people might be able to do without credit, 36161.—It was a pressing need now, 36166.

ROADS.

Transit accommodation altogether neglected by Grand Jury, one road in Leitrim division skirting district; for seven miles up mountain there were no roads, two miles made by District Council some years ago, but it was not continued, and was now practically useless; no fund from District Council for roads because Ballinac was overtaxed, more highly taxed than other parts of Fermanagh, 36166-8.—No hope of getting roads without outside aid, 36169.—Taxation was so high because attempt was being made to make roads, 36172.—Difference between local and Imperial taxation was that local taxation was spent for benefit of the people who paid it, 36172.

NECESSITY FOR SCHEDULING DISTRICT.

If County Fermanagh were scheduled Congested Districts Board would have undertaken several drainage and other works at adjoining county was a congested district, grant had been given by Board for road which could not be completed because part lay in Fermanagh; a river that flooded 200 or 300 acres every autumn would have been drained had there been any Board in Fermanagh to take up scheme, as it was it fell through, 36172.

CASSIDY, Mr. JAMES.

See p. 146.

CONDITION OF PEOPLE.

Witness's farm at Derryalt, Swainlinbar, comprised twenty-four acres, rent, £5, valuation, £7 6s.; it was in Kinawley electoral division, 36173.—Employment necessary to keep people in Swainlinbar county division from starvation or emigration, draining and fencing lands recommended in order to improve their condition; holdings small and inferior, three-quarters of the people in divisions of Templeport, Belbrook, Pedrovaghia, Kinawley, portions of Swainlinbar and Terraher were starving on account of failure of potato crop, and could not exist without help from America and Scotland; relief works were started in 1903, one in each family being allowed to work for 1s. a day, 36173.—In 1906 portions of mountain districts had no potato crop, it failed owing to wet season; people sprayed but it was difficult to find dry enough weather, 36174-5.—Better to start permanent employment than temporary relief works; there should be a woollen mill or a tannery, there had been a tan yard, hides easily obtainable, because so many cattle died in hard season, 36177.—Some grazing ranches in Meath or Roscommon should be taken over and 50 per cent. of farmers in witness's division migrated there, which would give remaining farmers opportunity of living, 36173.

RAILWAY.

No railway in Swainlinbar; people paid 6d. in the £ guarantee for Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway, this should be stopped as they derived no benefit from line, 36175.

M'ALCOON, Mr. TERENCE.

See p. 146.

CONDITION OF PEOPLE.

Witness's farm at Gortin, Swainlinbar, consisted of twenty-three acres, rent, £7 15s. 2½, valuation, £9 3s. 7½.—The land was poor, and the soil so intense crops were kept back; unless Government provided employment no one could live on land if climate did not change; people were in debt to shopkeepers and banks, 36181.—District thickly inhabited, farms small and poor, 36183.

RAILWAY.

A railway was necessary; buyers would not go to fairs without accommodation, fairs had gone down, existing railway no benefit; communication with Enniskillen and road was hilly; District Council had passed resolution in favour of proposed line, Board of Guardians carried it without a dissentient vote, 36180.—Opposition came from a small point, Ballyconnell to Belkinst, 36181.—People would give the same guarantee as now given, 36182.—Line had been surveyed and occupiers asked for their consent to it passing through their property, but nothing more took place, 36182-3.

MINERALS.

Mines could be worked if there were a railway; mountains rich in minerals and coal, mines worked 100 years ago, 36184.—Coal from mountains had been used in forges of the town, 36185.

EMIGRATION.

Rent paid chiefly by money from America; £177 and £206 of American money cashed in Swainlinbar Post Office in December, 1905, and January, 1907; within last thirty years people able to work had emigrated and the incapable were left at home, 36185.

MAGUIRE, Mr. HUGH.

See pp. 146-7.

CONDITION OF PEOPLE AND FAILURE OF POTATO CROP.

Potato crop a failure in nine or ten townlands last year, in others the crop was bad, average crop of potatoes in places at back of mountains was two tons

MAGUIRE, Mr. HUGH—continued.

an acre, three times that in other places; oats yielded 12 to 14 cwt. an acre, people badly off, would work if they could get it, no fairs and markets, thirty years ago there was a weekly market at Swanlinbar, better attended than monthly fair was now, lack of railway facilities and accommodation the reason, twelve or fourteen miles to Enniskillen, in four or five townlands produce had to be taken on donkeys' backs, 39187.—Railway would improve condition of people, 39188.—Land gone down in value, 39189.—Price of produce reduced, 39190-1.—Summer of 1907 the worst since 1879 or 1880.—Some little works would tide the poor over the difficulty, 39191.

Road.

Road of two miles was about to be made, partly in County Cavan, partly in Fermanagh; Earl of Erne's father, who was chairman of Fermanagh Grand Jury, gave a sort of promise that when Cavan portion was to be made, Fermanagh part should also be made, in 1890 Cavan portion was made, but Fermanagh portion was still undone, 39191-2.—Finishing road would give employment and much-needed accommodation, 39192.

BRADY, Rev. OWEN.

See p. 147.

CONDITION OF LAND AND PEOPLE.

Parish of Carlowagh was mountainous, it contained ecclesiastical divisions of Benbrack, Templeport, and Pedravochers, parish as poor that relief works had been promoted five times in last twenty years, 39193, 39203.—£2,300 given on one occasion, relief works objectionable when applied too often, better to lift condition of people to make them independent, 39203-5.—Potato crop failed in wet season, 39193.—Grass had no better-making power, as soil was only six inches deep, farmers gained little from produce of cattle, 39194, 39195, 39197.—No herbage for sheep, soil covered with rushes and moss, sheep rarely kept, 39198.—Drainage would improve soil, 39199.—Figs kept, food for them often got on credit from shops, 39199.

VALUATION, &c.

Valuation of Benbrack 19s. per head, of Templeport £1 5s., Pedravochers equally low, districts should be scheduled, and powers and revenue of Board increased, 39195.

PLANTING.

Scheme for planting mountains and falds, and increasing horticulture should be adopted, best way would be to establish local nurseries at convenient places where trees could be obtained at easy prices, and with a man to show how to plant them; useless to send instructor without possibility of carrying out instruction, soil good for apple trees, 39196-8.—Planting of large belt of mountains would improve climate and give shelter, and after a time would supply wood, which was getting scarce, 39199.

BOGS.

Good bogs at present, but turf getting used up as it was sold in the town, and was often principal means of keeping family, 39200-L.—Good thing to introduce proper breed of cattle, shorthorns unsuitable, Kerry breed more suited to climate and soil, old Irish breed the best, 39205.—Roads needed, 39199.

CLEARY, Mr. JAMES.

See pp. 147-8.

DESCRIPTION OF MULLAGHRENN, CASTLECAIDWELL, AND BELLECK.

Witness's farm was close to Belleck, rent £16 10s., valuation £23, 39206.—Population of Mullaghrenn was 177, valuation £169, or 19s. per unit, nearly the poorest district in Ireland, no persons of large valuation, in Castlecaidwell the population was 487, valuation 29s. per unit, three persons with valuation of £636, 39207.—There

CLEARY, Mr. JAMES—continued.

were 600 acres of grazing land, 39208.—Owned by mortgagees who were willing to sell, 39210, 39211.—Also 290 acres of waste land, 39210.—Population of Belleck was 782, valuation 30s. per head, four persons with valuation of £636 15s., 340 acres of grazing without population, 929 acres of waste land, it was hilly, with heather and bog, 39207.—Waste land was in landlord's hands, there were some tenants on it, 39206, total valuation of the 929 acres was £12, 39209.

ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS, PLANTING, &c.

The large holdings in the district should be obtained and divided among small tenants little expense involved, as houses would not be required, owners would sell at reasonable price; hilly portions of waste land should be planted, and valleys drained, that would give shelter and pasturage, two lakes having had outlet into Lough Erne could be drained and valleys drained into lake, if district were put under Congested Districts Board land could be purchased with good, and tenants allowed trees for planting, 39211.—Thirty-three years ago coal and iron mines were worked by an English company, but latter differed with landlord as to terms of lease and took away their engines.—Nothing had been heard of them since, 39211.

MALLON, Rev. P. E.

See pp. 149-6.

MORLEY ESTATE.

Morley Estate, Doohally, comprised 12,730 acres, valuation of holding was below that which qualified for scheduling, all were uneconomic and non-agricultural except about a dozen, soil poor and unsuited for crop raising, only portions available for tillage were the low-lying strips of valley, crops raised were inferior, and rarely came to maturity on account of the climate, river Shannon ran through district, annual floods rendered land below high water level useless for anything but grazing, dredging at entrance of river to Lough Allen would be a partial remedy, lowering level of Lough necessary for permanent improvement, main damage caused by backwater in tributaries when Shannon was in flood, 1,000 acres of best part of property under grazing farms, owners willing to part with them, 39212.

CONDITION OF PEOPLE.

People were in abject state of poverty, and struggle against adverse circumstances, forecast amongst the latter was landlordism, which had been a curse instead of a blessing, there was, however, a prospect of an end to this state of things, as the Estates Commissioners were inspecting property with a view to purchase from syndicates who owned it, lack of methods of working holdings profitably were other adverse circumstances, houses and out-offices wretched, 39212.

SPINNING AND WEAVING.

Spinning and weaving formerly engaged in, durable material turned out cheaply, number of spinning wheels becoming fewer as old ones wore out, and people could not afford to get new ones, or did not know where to get them, 39212, 39214-5.—Good thing to give loans for spinning wheels and looms in the same way as for boats, 39215.—People's interest dying out, because they could not get wheels, and young people did not remain at home to learn, 39215-7.—Better for people to make their own cloth instead of spending money on cheap useless material, 39213.—Two or three hand looms in district constantly at work turned out fine tweeds and flannels, which were used by the people for their own clothing, 39217-E.—Board would do good if it remediated industry, 39217.

EVIL OF CREAMERY SYSTEM.

Butter-making at home done to a certain extent, could be improved; creameries a calamity in such a poor district, all the milk sent to creamery to get the money, and not enough kept at home, result was seen in the children, who looked badly nourished, and

MALLON, Rev. P. E.—continued.

not as well as where milk was churned at home, 39218-9, 39222, 39224.—In a poor district cottage dairies would be better, or better factories, where butter could be sent and prepared for market, as dairy accommodation in district, 39223.—Creamery system better if parents could be made to reserve milk for children, but there was the temptation to send too much away, 39221, 39223.—General poverty of the country responsible, 39224.—Children fed with stout, 39225.

EMIGRATION AND EDUCATION.

Consequence of emigration was that children could not get enough education, as they had to work the farm; a pity, as they were intelligent, 39225.—District a model district for working of Board, people keen and industrious, Board should be careful not to give impression that people were receiving charity, 39225-6.

DERMODY, Mr. JOHN.

See p. 148.

FLOODING—DRAINAGE.

Floods in neighbourhood were ruinous, river overflowed after two nights rain, in 1903 witness lost thirty cocks of hay; from Ballinadeen Bridge to Augnacreeve, a distance of seven miles, Rag river had no shape, had never been silted, 39227.—Some effort should be made to deepen it, to take away surface water, 39228-9.—Landlords took no interest in it, 39230.—Witness had not yet bought out, 39231.—Half of his land was flooded for eight months in the year, that is to say, subject to flooding after twenty-four hours' rain, 39232-3.—Cattle could not be left on it, they ate nothing because it was covered with dirt, 39234.—Several Commissioners had been appointed to inquire into Irish grievances, and nothing had been done, witness waited a strong case put this time, 39235-41.—The last inquiry had been at Ennistiffan in the August of 1905, 39237-8.

MC CAFFREY, Mr. PETER.

See pp. 149-50.

NECESSITY FOR DRAINAGE.

Witness's farm was at Clincorta, Bawnboy, size seventy-five acres, rent £28 9s. 2d, valuation £35 11s., 39242.—Arterial drainage wanted, witness's farm was flooded half the year, thirty cocks of hay lost in two years, in 1879 every cock of hay lost except one, three years ago meadow could not be cut owing to flood, witness made bank along edge of river, but water came back on the other side, whole country from Ballymagovern, two miles long, and including hundreds of acres, was subject to flooding; Ballymagovern lake choked, no outlet for river, district not the same as mentioned by last witness, 39243-5.—Lake should be opened, 39245.—Country difficult to drain, one night's rain would leave six feet of water, 39246.

O'BRIEN, Mr. MICHAEL.

See p. 150.

ROAD REQUIRED.

Road required connecting Shree Russell with Caldra Mill, three miles across top of mountain; object of road was to get turbarry, which was growing scarce, to connect roads made 50 or 60 years ago, 39247.—Turbarry could then be supplied to townlands; grant also needed to improve old hilly roads, 39248.—Turf on wild commonage belonged to landlord, 39249.—Landlord would give little towards road, but it would give employment to people, as well as be a means of communication, 39250-4.—Mountain valuable for reforestation if road were made; greater part had no turbarry, 39255-7.—Position not too exposed for timber, 39258.—Mountains from Swanlinbar to Bally-

O'BRIEN, Mr. MICHAEL—continued.

connell and from Ballyrannell to Derryishan should be scheduled; one thousand of 207 acres with six families had only £22 10s. valuation, 39247.—No one living on mountain where the road was suggested, 39255.—It belonged to land around, 39256.—Bawnboy Union likely to be absorbed into some other union, in which case woollen factory might be started in disused workhouse, as the industry would be valuable, 39256.

MEEHAN, Mr. P. A.

See pp. 153-4, 160, and 165.

SMALL HOLDINGS IN QUEEN'S COUNTY.

2,106 small holdings on one acre in Queen's County, including labourers' plots, 39263-4.—All agricultural holdings; a few gate-houses, etc., might be included, 39265-7.—Occupants looked to land for living, but had to get casual employment as well, 39268.—In fact, they depended for the greater part on the outside labour, 39269.—These holdings were nearly always cut-away bogs; they should be enlarged to three or five acres, 39270-1, 39288.—The county statistics, which gave 2,508 agricultural holdings up to 24 valuation, might include some not amounting to an acre, 39272-3.—1,681 similar holdings in County Mayo; 1,485 in County Donegal, 39284.—Queen's County one-third in area and population of Mayo or Donegal; yet small holdings in Queen's County exceeded Donegal by two to one, and Mayo by five to three; something should be done to relieve the congestion, 39276.—Schedule handed in gave return of holdings not exceeding ten statute acres, excluding those acquired under Labourers' Acts, and holdings occupied by persons having additional land elsewhere; 136 such holdings in Ballylin division, 39278.—25 the approximate average valuation of ten acres, 39276.

ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS AND LAND AVAILABLE.

There was a large holding in Ballylin division belonging to Mr. Butler, a business man; it consisted of 840 acres, 120 of which was recently bought; owner was non-resident; the 120 acres was grazing for many years, residence was unoccupied; this might be available for enlargement of small holdings, 39275-82, 39287.—Another grazing farm of 80 acres in same neighbourhood, but its next townland belonged to Mr. J. Clear, who would be willing to sell; these two farms were good land, and if acquired would go a long way to relieve congestion, 39282-4.—Witness did not object to 20 acres or more in one man's hands if used as mixed farms, but where farms were used only for grazing, and there were uneconomic holdings in district; it should be acquired and divided amongst uneconomic holders; witness did not fix any number of acres as necessary; it depended on quality of land, etc.; must be enough to give occupier a decent living, 39285-6, 39288, 39290, 39294.—Mr. Butler's farm belonged to a man who had 100 acres elsewhere, and was therefore a suitable one to be acquired, 39287.—People in Queen's County would be glad to get ten acres of land similar to that acquired in County Meath, 39289.—Valuation not always a true indication of value of land, 39291.—There were 76 holdings under ten acres in Castleblayney division, 43 in Cappalough, and there was a large grazing ranch of 480 acres in latter division held by owner of business establishment in midlands, 39291.—Only a herd's house on ranch; land should be acquired (owner receiving just compensation), and divided amongst people; it would be adequate for needs of Cappalough and Castleblayney, 39292-3.—It was all in one union, 39294.—Residence in one union would not prevent a man getting portion of land in the next union, 39295.—There were 50 holdings in Clonsilla division, 49 in Bangor, 32 in Garrymore, 21 in Graigue, 51 in Meelick, 54 in O'Moore's Forest, 57 in Rearymore, 37 in Rosmalis, 54 in Tinnahinch; no lands available for purchase for enlargement of holdings in the divisions except 1,000 acres in Rearymore, in Mountmellick Union, occupied by two gentlemen, 39295-7.—There was an estate of good land of 350 acres belonging to Mrs. Adair at Ballybenties; owner willing to sell; estate partly

MEEHAN, Mr. P. A.—continued.

grazing and partly tillage; Mr. Adair in occupation; residence had been burned down, so the did not reside there; if some of the people of Mountmellick Union could be moved on to these lands and the small holdings added together congestion would be greatly relieved, 39329-301.

ABBETTS UNION.

In Abbeyleix Union there were 38 holdings under ten statute acres in Blandford townland, and the lands outside Blandford demesne, where tenants were evicted forty years ago, were suitable to be acquired for re-instatement of evicted tenants or enlargement of holdings; witness thought they were under grazing, 39301-2.—In Clash there were 62 holdings under ten acres, and one of 860 acres in occupation by Major Marsh, which was residential, 39303-3.—There were 74 holdings under ten acres in Clonsilla townland and thirteen in Cullinagh, 39304.

CULLINAGH.

Sixty years ago whole population of Cullinagh were evicted from what was now a grazing ranch of 400 acres; over 100 families evicted; ranch should be acquired by Estates Commissioners, and be divided into suitable holdings for people; occupier non-resident, 39304-5.—320 acres of ranch at Ballyknockan from which families were evicted should also be acquired, 39314.—Small farm in neighbourhood belonging to Mrs. Adair, suitable for allotments, should be acquired, 39303.—There were 72 small holdings in Rahen, 16 in Thurso, 6 in Garryglass, under 10 acres, 39305.

GARRYGLASS.

In Garryglass the estate was sold to tenants, and there were 300 acres of untenanted land; on eve of sale these 300 acres were divided amongst four people who had other land; protest was made, and one surrendered his allotment to Estates Commissioners; another had since done so, and it was hoped the others would follow; transaction carried on by local branch of United Irish League, who were negotiating sale through Estates Commissioners, 39306-8.—There was a farm of 180 acres in Timahoe which the owner was willing to sell, and the Foster Estate in Ballyroan townland was about to be sold; there were eight small holdings on estate, and owner was willing to sell to Estates Commissioners; if purchased small holder's rights to economic holdings should be recognised; there were 75 holdings under 10 acres in townlands of Slodahilly and Timogue; 210 acres available for relief of congestion, 39314.—Thirty untenanted holdings in Abbeyleix Union and 600 acres untenanted land in landlord's hands let on eleven months' system; efforts to purchase lands had failed, now being urged on behalf of sixty labourers that a recommendation be made to Estates Commissioners to buy land for distribution; a number of tenants had been evicted 25 years ago and should be restored, 39461.—District mentioned should be scheduled, 39461.—Witness in favour of purchase of grass lands where required to raise untenanted holdings to economic limit, 39310.—In some unions there were enough grass lands for requirements without going outside, in others not, 39313-3.

COMPULSORY POWERS.

Compulsory powers needed to acquire land on just terms would go a long way towards bettering condition of people; County Councils should have compulsory powers to acquire waste and mountain land for re-forestation, that is, mountain where no grazing rights existed; 63,668 acres waste bog and mountain in Queen's County, 39314.

RE-FORESTATION.

Would give continuous employment to certain number, improve health, and add to National wealth; it must be carried out as a National work with free gift of three-fourths of cost, one-fourth to be left as charge not by royalty on timber, 39314-6.

MEEHAN, Mr. P. A.—continued.

DRAINAGE.

Arterial drainage necessary; neglected for a century; local effort could not cope with it; Commission on Arterial Drainage recommended that it should be a National question, especially drainage of River Barrow; that local effort could not cope with it, and Parliament must advance money; Mr. Balfour estimated cost of draining Barrow at £360,000; he offered £215,000 free gift, balance of £145,000 to be charged on land benefited, but his Bill did not pass, 39316, 39384.—Valley of Barrow a hot-bed of disease; draining would relieve lands from flooding, and improve people's health, 39316.—First work was to remove obstructions from river; occupiers could not drain their own farms; whole scheme should be carried out first by State, and charge put on land benefited, 39317-18.—Land should be taxed in proportion to advantage derived; people ten miles away should be taxed higher, 39319.—Rate thus raised applicable to drainage, 39320.—State of Barrow worse than twenty years ago; what was then good grazing not worth 2s. 6d. an acre now, 39321.—It was flooded annually, and sand carried on to meadow, so that no beast would eat the grass; people got relief in an exceptionally dry year, 39322.—Witness gave evidence before Commission on Arterial Drainage, 39323.

WOOD-CARTING.

Wood-carving class attended by carpenters' apprentices and farmers' sons; the latter obtained knowledge of use of tools, and were enabled to make carts and many useful farm implements; wood-carving also taught with view of reviving it as cottage industry, 39361.

AGRICULTURAL SHOWS.

At Agricultural Society's shows certain classes not asked to pay subscription; poor man got every encouragement; special section for clean cottages and best managed farm largely availed of; competition active; principal prizes for cow at show taken by man from neighbourhood of Abbeyleix with only two acres, 39361.

Documents put in by Mr. P. A. Meehan.

	Page
A.—Description of Untenanted Land on De Paul Estate,	260
B.—Small Holdings in Abbeyleix,	266
C.—Condition of Tenants in Abbeyleix,	270
D.—A Street in Abbeyleix,	270

KELLY, Rev. J. J.

See pp. 154-6.

COOTE ESTATE.

Coote Estate was in the parish of Ballylin, in Mountmellick Union, area 9,742 acres, valuation £2,735 4s., large portion very poor, thirteen districts with valuation under £5, five out of eight holdings in Ballycomar under £5 valuation, 39325-7.—Thirty-three holdings in Ballylin Upper, 22 of these under £5, fourteen holdings in Ballylusk, eight of them under £5, forty-seven in Bockin, twenty-nine under £5 valuation, nine in Ballylin Lower, six under £5, seventeen in Cavan's Heath, eleven under £5, in Deeppark out of thirty-four there were eighteen under £5, thirty-three in Troy, twenty-one under £5, twenty-four in Knock, twenty under £5, eighteen in Rosmore, thirteen under £5, twenty-one in second Deeppark, thirteen under £5, twenty-one in Scree Upper, eighteen under £5, twenty-one in Scree Lower, sixteen under £5, 7,072 acres in all with a valuation of £1,738, 50 per cent. of the holdings were under £5, and therefore congested, people in a very poor way, storm of a few years ago that blew down all the timber on the demesne saved people from starvation by giving them employment and fuel, 39327-8.—Property in question was in north-west of Ballylin on southern slope of Shire Bloom Mountain, 39328.—Formerly owned by Mr. Wollesley Pole, Lord Maryborough, tenants better off under him than under Coote family, they had free turbary and grazing on mountains, and were not called on so exactly for rent, widows rent free in some holdings, on transfer

KELLY, Rev. J. J.—continued.

of estate Lord Maryborough arranged that tenants should not be worse off, in point of fact there was little free tithery, and not much mountain grazing, rents now exacted with great severity. 36328.—Great amount of turf bog, but when tenant cut out his turf bank he had to provide for himself and pay for turf, there were 113 acres bog in Boctra, 332 in Troy, twenty-six in Kneeknashan; in spite of that some tenants had to go to other properties for bog. 36330-1.—366 acres at Deerpark, thirty-four acres at Cappinureh, 356 acres at Redcastle in landlord's hands, principally under grass, Deerpark was downy land, the others outside farms, one at Cappinureh let on eleven months' system to tradesman and might be used to increase neighbours' holdings. 36332-5, 36336.—When property first came into Cooke family a reduction of 4s. was given, then 2s. 6d., then 2s.; nothing given now off rent, it was voluntary, not permanent, arrangement. 36338-42.—Some tenants had been into court and got large reductions, others did not go into court because they were afraid of landlord, as they worked for him, 36343-34.

CUMMINS.

Raising money on accommodation bills much in vogue, many banks in neighbourhood, witness had tried to start agricultural bank, but it did not succeed, too many banks round about, 36337-8.

PRICE OF LAND.

A year before Land Conference Sir A. Cooke informed witness he had got his son's consent to sell estate which he wished to do, witness told him tenants were anxious to buy, Sir A. Cooke asked twenty years' purchase, though land was only worth fourteen to sixteen years' purchase, and nothing was done at that time, 36344-5.—After Land Bill witness wrote to Sir Algernon asking if he was willing to sell, twenty-four and a half and twenty-six and a quarter years' purchase was then asked, 36346-8.—Passing of Act of 1903 created the difference in price, 36349.—Re-afforestation advisable, there was suitable land in neighbourhood on mountain slopes, 36350-2, 36354.—Not much pasture on it, only bog, 36353.—Tenants had grazing rights on it which were their only support besides money from America, 36355, 36357.—They might give up their rights if they got compensation or good land in exchange, 36358.—The grazing would never be made into good land, 36359-60.—Lower down at Troy there was a little turbary, but not on mountain, 36356.

O'NEILL, Mr. JOHN J.

See pp. 155-7.

LONGFORD UNION.

Witness's farm was at Drumlish, County Longford, nine thirty-two acres, rent 65s., valuation £10, 36361-6.—Longford Union consisted of eighteen electoral divisions, seven of which should be scheduled, 36367, 36368.

AGHABOY.

Number of ratings in Aghaboy Division was 360, 294 of 65 valuation and under, ninety-eight between 25 and 315, twenty-four between £10 and £15, fourteen over £15; 3,692 acres, of which thirty-nine were bog in Aghaboy, 36367.

BALLINAMUCK.

Ballinamuck East electoral division had 219 ratings of which 101 valued at 65 and under, seventy-seven between 25 and £10, twenty-three between £10 and £15, eighteen over £15, total area 5,095 acres, 402 acres of bog; Ballinamuck West electoral division had 412 ratings, 277 of 65 and under, 108 between 25 and £10, eight over £10, total area, 5,792 acres, 734 of which were bog, 36367.—Mistake that there were thirteen holdings valued up to £100, 36376.—Total area, 4,904 acres, 656 of those bog, 36367.

BRUMBLETON.

Brumblington electoral division had 444 ratings, 264 at 25, 132 between 25 and £10, twenty-two between £10 and £15, six over £15, 36367.—Mistake that there were thirteen between £100 and £200, 36376.—Total area, 4,904 acres, 656 of those bog, 36367.

O'NEILL, Mr. JOHN J.—continued.

DELMONAGH.

Drumport electoral division had 254 ratings, 129 of 65 and under, seventy-five between 25 and £10, twenty-five between £10 and £15, twenty-five over £15, total area, 4,827 acres, 462 being bog in landlord's possession.

DRUMBLISH.

Drumlish electoral division had 510 ratings, 435 of 25 and under, 123 between 25 and £10, twenty-three between £10 and £15, nine over £15, total area, 4,965 acres, three acres bog.

KILLON.

Killon electoral division had 196 ratings, 121 of 25 and under, fifty-seven between 25 and £10, fourteen between £10 and £15, six over £15, total area, 3,799 acres, 500 acres bog—35,068 acres total area of these seven divisions, of that 2,748 were bog, total valuation of divisions £12,038 12s., and of the bog in landlord's hands £67 8s.

CHARACTER OF SOIL.

The land was worst in Longford, or in Ireland, badly situated as to roads and passes, needed reclamation and improvement, soil light and mountainous, needed to be limed, no limestone quarry within nine miles, lime had to be drawn across mountain from Grange, 36367.—Portion of bogs mentioned was cut-away, all in landlord's possession; plenty of turbary on estate except in Drumlish division, 36363-4.

DRAINING AND LIMING NEEDED.

Land needed draining and then liming, if district were scheduled tenants would get facilities for this, farmers would do labour themselves with their families, no employment at present, and young men emigrated, 36370-2.—Killashoe not included in districts mentioned, it was one of the richest districts in County Longford, 36373-4.

SCHEDULES.

The seven divisions mentioned as requiring scheduling were in north-west of the county adjoining Leitrim, land was worse than in Leitrim, 36375-61.

SUB-DIVISIONS.

Holdings formerly larger, had been much subdivided by predecessors of present holders, little subdivision now, good provision against it in Land Act, 36382-5.—Roads neglected, a number were not on county books, so could not be repaired unless they were put up as new works, to which County Council objected, as rates were going up so rapidly, 36386.

RE-AFFORESTATION.

No woods in district, witness suggested that when landless were purchased out tenants should be encouraged to drain and plant bogs, as there were more than enough for turbary, 36387.

LAND AVAILABLE FOR RELIEF OF CONGESTION.

There were 400 acres in Colonel Douglas's hands, let out on eleven months' system, Estates Commissioners should not sanction sale of his estate unless he sold out those grazing ranches, 36389.—Five or six grazing ranches in Longford Union belonging to Mr. Bond, easy to find places for surplus population, 36390-1.—There should be compulsory sale of untenanted land for allotments and provision of economic holdings, 36391.

FRANKS, Mr. HARRY.

See pp. 157-8.

TURFARY ON COOTE ESTATE.

Witness's father became agent for Coote Estate in 1905, when Rev. Sir A. Coote succeeded his brother, 36394.—Boys at that time wanted draining; landlord offered to drain them if tenants would pay 1s. a perch for turf, instead of having it free, as heretofore; they agreed, and boys were now kept drained; money paid for turf did not cover annual expense, 36394-5.—Men employed to carry out drainage at so much a perch; more turfary got now, and in an easier manner, 36395.

RENT AND VALUATION.

Rent becoming due on 1st May was called for on 1st November; very often not paid, 36394.—Gale days, 1st May and 1st November, except in Ballyfin, where they were 25th March and 29th September; rent then collected was due six months before, 36397-8.—Sir A. Coote employed fifty tenants on Ballyfin Demense, sixty-four at Deepark; wages bill for twelve months was £2,300, 36398.—Tenants never prevented from going into court to settle rents; they were urged to when they complained of rents; it was more satisfactory for agent than settling out of court; going into court did not affect their employment by landlord; some had gone, and witness expressed his approval; rents on estate were not high; in one case Land Commission fixed higher rent than had been paid before, 36399-403.—Poor Law valuation all over Ireland was generally above rent; on Ballyfin section of Coote Estate rent was £1,659 17s. 7d., valuation £2,611 4s., or £381 4s. 5d. above rent, which represented 21 per cent.; on Maryborough portion valuation was £2,007 19s., rent £2,676 16s. 3d., valuation £421, or 15 per cent. above rent; in Graigue portion valuation was £1,350, rent £1,370 8s. 4d., valuation £319 11s. above rent, or 38 per cent.; while Over Estate rents were 34 3/6 per cent. less than Poor Law valuation; on Matthew McLaughlin's holding of 33 acres 3 rods 36 perches rent was £7 12s., valuation £9 15s.; rent was fixed by consent at £2 7s. 11d., but on appeal on question of improvements was settled at £7 10s., 36405-7.—Holding of Finton Moore, Cavan's Heath, area was 16 acres 18 perches, rent £2 16s., valuation £3, rent fixed at £2 7s. 6d., 36409.—Cases not selected, simply taken from ledger, very few tenants went into court, 36410.—John Butler's holding at Ballylusk, area 139 acres, rent £43, valuation £57 15s., rent fixed at £50 27s. 1d., notice of appeal served, and rent fixed by consent at £43, 36411.

FARMS OF COOTE ESTATE.

Sir A. Coote had farm at Deepark, nearly all demense, laid out in artificial lakes; Redcastle Farm was worked in conjunction with it, being a great farm, of which a large portion was tillied; if main farms were taken away opportunities for giving employment would be restricted; great amount of the Deepark under tillage, large portion under woods and lakes; a third available for farming; large number of stall cattle raised required root crops, 36412-15.—Figures given by Father Kelly re purchase negotiations were correct; Ballyfin tenants, in conjunction with Maryborough West tenants, subsequently offered to buy on following terms:—reduction of existing rents by 15 per cent.; they would then purchase at eighteen years', which represented 11s. in the £ reduction, and was refused by Sir A. Coote; no further negotiations with that section since; on Barry portion of estate purchase agreements signed as twenty-three years' purchase of first term rents, twenty-six of second term; in Derrygalla, 25 years' purchase of first term rents, twenty-five of second term rents, 36416.

IMPROVEMENTS OF SIR A. COOTE.

Sir A. Coote, a good landlord, resided in country nearly all the year, and spent his money there, 36416-7.—Did not treat tenants with severity, 36395a.—His father had provided town of Mountstrath with water supply at his own expense; it cost £1,000, 36418.

AIRD, Mr. JAMES J.

See pp. 158-60.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

Witness resided at Maryborough, and was a member of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Committee, 36418-8.—Technical schemes administered by Agriculture and Technical Instruction Committee cost £260 a year for whole county, 36419-21.—£460 came from rates, £460 from Department's funds, £30 from class fees, etc.; expenditure—salary of itinerant instructor in manual work £150, of itinerant instructors in domestic economy and of instructors attached to Stradbally Residential School of Domestic Economy, £185; expenses of instructors and their classes £125; boys' scholarships, £150; girls' scholarships, £235; Stradbally Woodcruising Class, £25; general administration, £90, 36422-3.—Inspector went round and took classes; great interest taken in all classes; keen competition where prizes were offered, 36424.—Instructor gave courses of four or six weeks, then went to next district that had applied; five rural districts in county, each got pro rata share of services of manual instructors, as they desired them, according to their liability, 36425-6.—Attendance at manual classes fair; very good in some districts, 36427.—Classes had been going on for four years, 36428.—Not much result seen at present; boys often broke away from school, 36429.—Boys trained to make models, draw, and use tools; drawing taught in schools less practical, 36431-4.—Useful to learn to use tools, even if boys were not going to be carpenters, 36435.—Most vital subjects slowest in results; for instance the scholarships for higher education; boys whose parents could not afford to send them to secondary schools were assisted; no secondary school at Maryborough; they either lodged at the centre or went by train; some technical instruction given in secondary schools, 36436-40.—Agricultural schemes cost £1,761; £625 payable from rates, £1,063 from Department; details of expenditure were—£225 for itinerant instructor in agriculture, £270 of which was paid by Department (in remaining schemes five-eighths paid by Department), on poultry £152 was expended; on butter-making, £112; on horticulture, £149; cottages and farm prices, £121; in live stock schemes there were eighty nominations to mares at £2 each; eighteen premiums to bulls at £15 each; subsidies to county and two local shows, £159; administrative expenses, £212; annual contribution from rates £1,000, from Department, £1,622, 36423.

POULTRY.

Poultry scheme well taken up; dropped temporarily by County Committee, but there were so many applications that it was put on again, 36428.—Some had thought instruction not practical enough, others that they knew more than instructor, 36430.—Scheme dropped on account of insufficient money; when it was re-established money was not taken from that allotted to agriculture, but from a balance; instruction created interest, showed people breeds not kept before, and made markets, 36441.

BULLS.

Premiums for bulls had always been taken up, 36442.—Committee selected bulls at Spring Show with Department official, 36443.

AGRICULTURAL SHOWS.

Smaller farmers did not benefit much by schemes; they did not always have cattle or horses; they could, however, use educational and poultry schemes; latter advocated as the poor man's scheme, 36444.—Classes at county shows that poorest could show in; show committee anxious for them to compete, but they had no cattle, only small things like poultry to compete with, 36446-7a, 36449.—Hard to derive scheme for everyone; man with £10 valuation so poor he might not have beast for his own use; no benefit to have special class for such a man; prizes given for farms and meat cottages, with result that there had been great improvements, 36448.—Increase of tillage expected under system of agricultural education, 36450.—Scheme had not caused increase in witness's county; it was a tillage county—land

AIRD, Mr. JAMES J.—continued.

not fit for grazing, 39451-2.—Difficult to get instructions; more interest would be taken in schemes if there were local men who could act as instructors, 39453-4.—Fleaghting match got up last year by Agricultural Society a great success, 39455.—Some of the mountain holdings were ploughed, others were done with spade, 39456.—Could not be done otherwise; people too poor to get implements, 39457.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE.

Compulsory purchase of untenanted land one solution of problem of congestion; price paid by tenants for land too high; someone should be appointed to safeguard ratepayers; county council the natural authority, 39458-9.—Tenants should be put on land in position to live; at present men purchased at high price to get temporary relief; they could not continue to pay exorbitant annuities; the land purchase was leading to taxation of general public; taxpayers the ultimate security, and should have some safeguard, 39460-1.

GUILFOYLE, Mr. JOHN J.

See p. 151.

MOONAGH AND ERRILL.

Moonaghad and Errill townlands were in Roscomra No. 3 Rural District; Moonaghad contained 628 acres 1 rood 34 perches; valuation £262; population, 55 in 1880, 56 in 1901; there were eight uneconomic holdings, valuation varying from 10s. to £10; Errill contained 377 acres 3 roods 23 perches; many small holders under £10 valuation; population, exclusive of village, 60 in 1881, 50 in 1901, 39464-6.—Population of village 118 in 1901, 39467.—There was a rural part of Errill and a village, 39468.—Many small holders in Garryduff, Clannore, Roscomra, and Boreham townlands in similar need of additional land to enlarge holdings; steps should be taken to provide land, and parcel it out amongst holders, 39469.

UNTENANTED LAND.

There were about 400 acres of untenanted grass lands in neighbourhood, on estates of Mr. Hamilton Stubbs, 39470-2.—Negotiations going on at present between Mr. H. Stubbs and Estates Commissioners, 39472.—There were also 600 acres belonging to Lord Castletown, and some already divided belonging to Mr. Hopkins, 39474.—Some land was let in tenure by Lord Castletown to tenants in Tipperary, and some to tenants with economic holdings, 39475-6.—Land should be acquired by Estates Commissioners or other authority, and parcelled out to raise uneconomic holdings to economic standard, 39477.—Enough land in neighbourhood to do this, 39478.—No room for importation of persons from other parts of the country; existing holders would object to that until their own wants were supplied, 39479.

KIRWAN, Mr. PATRICK.

See p. 151.

BORRIS-IN-OSNEY.

There were 2,327 Irish acres untenanted land in and around Borris-in-Osney, 39479.—It was good land, let on eleven months system, and consisted of fourteen farms: Rathmore, 280 acres; Killoke, 300 acres; Kilparrell, 300 acres; Doon, 180 acres; Carraghmore, 150 acres; Monna, 100 acres; Lismore, 120 acres; Walsh's farm, Stubbs's estate, 182 acres; Stewart Mitchell's, 25 acres; Castledoring, 50 acres; Rosmore, 172 acres; Aldy, 100 acres; Kyndell, 250 acres, 39483-5.—Farms were let privately by landlord, 39484.—There were sixty holdings under £10 valuation, which could be made economic by addition of some of the untenanted land; many holders had large families, and could only provide for one at home, the rest went on railways or into police; many farmers' sons were in district who formed employment cutting turf, saving hay, &c.; they found it hard to make a living; they did not go to England or

KIRWAN, Mr. PATRICK—continued.

Scotland; sufficient land in district to give all a portion on which to make living, 39479-81, 39484.

STATE PURCHASE OF LAND.

Where there were a number of uneconomic holdings and number of grazing lands in a district, State should purchase the grazing lands to raise holdings to economic standard, 39485.

BREEN, Mr. THOMAS.

See pp. 151-2.

UNECONOMIC HOLDINGS IN AGHABOE PARISH.

In Aghaboe Parish there were 204 uneconomic holdings under 15 acres; in districts of Killybeggy, Borewell, and Brookagh there were thirty-two families on 75 acres, in Aghaboe and Kilderrig seventeen families living on 72 acres; in Ballyduffy Wood and Springfield forty-two families living 325 acres; in Boleward, Garryduff, and Clough twenty families on 109 acres; in Carrickrock, Kasekin and Berton, 12 families on 65 acres; in Whitpark and Greenstown eleven families on 77 acres; in Ballacolla, Cooderry, and Ballygarvan, 70 families on 84 acres, 39486.

UNTENANTED LAND.

Amount of untenanted land available in Aghaboe Parish for enlargement of holdings to economic standard was 1,361 acres, set on eleven months system; also 415 acres non-residential land, set on eleven months system; also 126 acres in Killybeggy and Borewell; 600 acres in Aghaboe and Kilderrig; 300 acres in Ballyduffy Wood and Springfield; 25 acres in Boleward, Garryduff, and Clough; 200 acres in Carrickrock, Kasekin and Berton; 241 acres in Ballacolla and Cooderry District, 39488.

EMIGRATION.

In some families there were four or five boys who had nothing to do but emigrate; it often ended in the whole family going away, and houses were allowed to fall, 39488.—Enlargement of holdings would prevent emigration, 39490.

STATE PURCHASE OF LAND.

State should purchase grazing farms and allot them to small holders to raise holdings to economic standard, 39489.—People would sell the extra land if they got it, 39492-2.

DRAINAGE OF WASTE LAND.

There was a large tract of waste land a mile eastward of Rathdowney and Errill, 39493.—It was flooded all the year, 39494.—No grazing rights on it, 39495.—Had never been cultivated, was boggy and marshy, 39497.—Could be reclaimed if water were carried away, 39498.—Place should be drained, and so give employment, which was much needed in locality, 39499.—In 1884 people tried to form drainage board, and spent £200 in maps and surveys; two landlords opposed it; so it fell through, 39499.

REPORT ON DISTRICT PROPOSED FOR DRAINAGE, WITH ESTIMATE OF COST.

Inspector of Board of Public Works reported on district as follows:—District situated partly in Counties of Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Queen's County, in Barony of Shreeveagh, Gahony, and Clannallagh; extended from south-east of Clonsilla, along River Goul, by west of Johnstown, till it joined Erika a mile eastward of Rathdowney, to Durney Bridge, near its junction with the Nore; included low-lying lands along these rivers, covered with water in winter, forming at lower and immense lake for greater part of year; main basin measured at outfall of district 90,700 acres; twenty-seven miles of main channels proposed to be improved; nine miles of branch streams and drains; estimated cost, £22,996; extent of land to be improved, 4,705 acres 2 roods 25 perches; present value of land, £1,213 15s. 3d.; estimated increase in value, £1,656 2s. 3d.; average increase in annual value, 8s. 8d. an acre; yielding return of six per cent. on cost of works; deepening and widening of channels and rivers proposed, and removal of bed of

BREEN, Mr. THOMAS—continued.

rock at outfall in damene at Duffow, also removal of mill at Uringford, lowering mill at Newtown, rebuilding and underpinning bridge; alterations suggested would cost 228,917, 38486.

DELANEY, Mr. WILLIAM.

See pp. 162-3 and 165.

LAND AVAILABLE FOR ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS.

Witness agreed with Mr. Meehan's evidence in regard to condition of Queen's County, and means of remedying congestion; if so small an area as electoral division were taken, there were sufficient untenanted or grazing lands to remedy congestion in those divisions; not sufficient land if county were taken as a whole, 38489.—Land on Stubber and Castletown property the best in Queen's County, though not in all Ireland; enough untenanted land there, let on eleven months system, to remedy congestion in whole of county, 38504.—County as a whole should be scheduled, 38520.

MIGRATION.

Migration from one part of the county to another would have to be restricted to, but not out of county; migrants would not be objected to—there were thousands of acres, 38489, 38524.—Number of evicted tenants who would be glad of equivalent holdings in other districts, 38504.

SIZE OF ECONOMIC HOLDING.

Farm of less than twenty acres not economic in Queen's County, excluding waste and flooded lands, which were extensive, 38489.—Holdings were rented at 18s. to 20s. an Irish acre, 38502.

ARTERIAL DRAINAGE

Necessity for arterial drainage well proved by reports of Commissioners; no county suffered more from flooding; case of Rivers Barrow, Eskine, and Goul a special grievance; agricultural condition could not be remedied till arterial drainage was improved; reclamation also important, but arterial drainage came first, 38504.

COTTAGE ESTATE.

Coolie property very poor, though there had not been many evictions or hardships; tenants of Kyle Estate had got 30 to 35 per cent. reductions; Mr. Franks had avoided quoting this portion of the property, 38504.

STANLEY, Mr. JAMES.

See p. 163.

WITNESS'S FARM.

Witness's holding at Garrison Errill consisted of 100 acres; rent 22s., valuation £129; rent likely to be reduced, 38505-12.

UNTENANTED LAND.

Witness agreed with Mr. Delaney, Mr. Kirwan, and Mr. Gulliflow, that there was enough land within Recess No. 3 Rural District to remedy the congestion; a large amount of land round Errill, on Mr. Stibber's and Lord Castletown's properties, enough to remedy congestion round Errill, 38512.—Lord Castletown's property was at Errill and Lisduff, 38513.

STUBBER ESTATE.

On Stubber Estate there was not so much land after evicted tenants had been reinstated; high purchase price agreed to on this estate on account of promise to restore evicted tenants and sell untenanted land to Estates Commissioners for division amongst un-economic holders, 38512, 38518.—Agreement not yet signed, but Estates Commissioners had been on estate; bargain would be broken if outsiders were brought in, because there were thirty-six holders on property—more over £10 valuation, 38514.—Estate not extensive—38516.

STANLEY, Mr. JAMES—continued.

ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS.

Two hundred acres of untenanted land should be taken up and divided amongst the small holders 38512.—Witness did not mean a farm should be broken up; untenanted land should be divided to make economic holdings; one man could not even rear a calf on his holding, 38520.

SIZE OF ECONOMIC HOLDING.

A man could live on ten good acres; thirty acres no use if valuation were only £8, 38512.

M'ATEER, Rev. J.

See pp. 163-4.

KILMEAGUE NORTH.

Witness came in reference to some townlands in parish of Allen, County Kildare, 38522-3.—Kilmeague North Electoral Division contained 115 holdings under £5 valuation; there was practically no untenanted land, but there were large tracts of bog; difficulty just now in negotiation for sale was principally in reference to tannery; sixty or seventy families with only an acre of land depended on sale of turf; owner (Miss Aylmer) wished to sell bog; Estates Commissioners could not advance money on it because bog was not security; it was thought she might sell to someone else who would put prohibitive price on turf banks; trustees asked for to take up bog; Commissioners would advance money if they could get trustees to be responsible; trustees could only be got if price were very small, 38523-4.

FEEGHILL.

Feeghill Electoral Division contained twenty-four holdings under £5 valuation, 250 acres untenanted land, 38523.—Land was now being handed over to Estates Commissioners; witness understood a large portion had been obtained by a man from Mayo; people would object to that while there were so many small holdings in division, 38524.

POVERTY OF DISTRICTS.

Rathern had forty-four holdings under £5, and 200 or 300 acres untenanted land, 38524.—Robertstown had ninety-six holdings under £5, and no untenanted land, 38524.—Three townlands were as poor as possible, and as much congested as any place; no congestion elsewhere in county, and therefore authorities did not take it up, 38525-6.—Tenants had no means of livelihood except turf, 38529.—Districts were being inspected by Estates Commissioners, 38530.

CULLETON, Mr. LOUIS.

See p. 154.

SCHEDULING OF MOUNTMELICK.

Witness agreed with evidence of Mr. Meehan and Mr. Delaney that portions of Mountmelick district should be scheduled, 38532.

DRAINING OF RIVER BARROW.

Bed of River Barrow silted up near Drummond; for six or seven miles it was practically no river, and flooded country when floods came; plenty of land now useless could be made good by cleaning river, 38533-3.

SALE OF LAND.

Sale of land difficult through complication of law; difficult to simplify title; tenants anxious to buy and landlords anxious to sell, but could do nothing because of complications; large price of twenty-three years' purchase offered in Mountmelick district; some were first and some second term tenants; first term tenants would have to give more; land-lady offered reduction, but seven or eight were concerned in it, and it could not be sold unless some State body took it up; Congested Districts Board could buy it if two-thirds signed for it, 38535-6.—Compulsory sale would be necessary in many cases, 38537.—Tenants industrious, but unable to make anything out of their time, 38538.—Landlords good but poor, 38539.

CAMPION, Mr. RODY J.

See pp. 164-5.

UNDEVELOPED LAND AVAILABLE FOR DIVISION.

Much undeveloped land in Donoughmore Electoral Division, in Aghaboe, Kildalling, Rossmore, Killybeggy, Granstown, Bordwall, Densieleggan; also many small farmers; some and daughters of holders of thirty or forty acres preferred emigration to going into service on other little holdings; if grazing ranches were divided holdings could be given, not only to tenants, but to their children; congestion would not be increased, the tracts of land were so large; in one tract there were only three herds on 300 acres of land, 36538-40.

CROPS.

Small holders had to crop land, but were obliged to put same crop in too often, and did not get as good results as from rotation, 36540.

ROAD REPAIRS.

If road were made through Akip, Kilpinnor, and Killoona a tract of 800 acres could be divided into economic holdings; without a public road lands could not be divided, 36540.

DRAINAGE OF GOUL AND ERKINA.

Witness was member of committee for improving and draining Rivers Goul and Erkina, and knew land well; had been there as valuer; land closed by floods for eight months in the year; would be closed altogether if river went on as at present; upper part of land worth £1 an acre if reclaimed; Lord Castletown the principal objector to drainage; other landowners pleased to have it done if occupiers were responsible for outlay, 36540.—Lord Castletown wished to keep land as duckpond, and was buying estates to enlarge it; had recently purchased Pilkington Estate over tenants' heads; districts would be much damaged if he were allowed to go on; tenants had no power over him; witness put nominal value of 1s. an acre on lands adjoining rivers, and landlord's valuer concurred; some lands near Oulshill would be worth no rent if rivers were not improved; if drainage were carried out they would average 15s. an acre, 36541-2.

CONSIDINE, Mr. MICHAEL.

See pp. 166-8, and 173-4.

ENNISETYMOR RURAL DISTRICT.

Witness represented Ennistymon Rural District Council, 36542.—His evidence was confined to Ennistymon Rural District, 36544.

CONGESTION.—VALUATION OF HOLDINGS.

In Annagh there were twenty-seven holdings under £4 valuation and 132 between £4 and £10; in Ballyvaughan there were forty-three under £4 and eighty-eight between £4 and £10, 36544.—In Cloonahane there were fifty holdings under £4 and eighty-one between £4 and £10; in Fernsley twenty-two under £4 and forty between £4 and £10; in Milrowa 138 under £4 and 119 between £4 and £10; in Moy 123 under £4 and 136 between £4 and £10; in Ballyallen 173 under £4 and 106 between £4 and £10; in Cloughane sixty under £4 and fifty-eight between £4 and £10; in Killybeggy sixty-nine under £4 and fifty-three between £4 and £10; in Killybeggy twenty under £4 and thirteen between £4 and £10; in Killyshanny twenty under £4 and thirteen between £4 and £10; in Lisnasherry sixty-seven under £4 and forty-seven between £4 and £10; in Lurgagh thirteen under £4 and twenty-seven between £4 and £10; in Southstown twenty-nine under £4 and twenty-nine between £4 and £10; in Ballyvaughan fifty-seven under £4 and eighty between £4 and £10; in Ballagh forty-seven under £4 and seventy-one between £4 and £10; in Clonney thirty-one under £4 and fifty between £4 and £10; in Ennistymon 165 under £4 and 111 between £4 and £10; in Killymorea fifty-six under £4 and fifty-two between £4 and £10; in Maughersburgh thirty under £4 and sixty between £4 and £10, 36545.—Witness's figures were obtained

CONSIDINE, Mr. MICHAEL.—continued.

from Clerk of the Union; difference between them and the figures in hands of Commissioners might be explained by certain individuals having two holdings each, 36545-6.—In all there were 1,389 holdings under £4 valuation and 1,416 between £4 and £10, 36560.—Sixty per cent. of the holdings were under £10; regarding holdings under £10 as uneconomic, 60 per cent. were congested.

LANDS AVAILABLE FOR RELIEF OF CONGESTION.

In certain districts congestion could be easily relieved; in Lurgagh there were 1,535 acres in farms of over 100 acres; in Killymore there were 1,907 acres, and in Ennistymon 1,688 acres in farms over 100 acres; in Killybeggy there were 2,151 acres in such farms, including some of the best lands in Glane, 36561-2.—These lands were in the hands of the landlord, and mostly let on the eleven months' system; Mr. MacNamara was landlord in Killybeggy, 36564, 36566.—All these lands were in grass, 36565.—Population of Killybeggy was 1,074, with 125 uneconomic holdings under £4 valuation, 36561.—All holdings under £4 valuation were of the farming class, 36557.—Killybeggy, Cloonahane and Ballyvaughan ought to be scheduled congested, 36563, 36560.—Small holdings in Cloonahane were in mountainous land, 36565.—No farm in Ballyvaughan had more than 100 acres, 36561.—Moy should be scheduled; in Fernsley there did not seem to be many holdings under £4, yet a lot of these lands were available, 36560.—Colonel Tottenham owned 2,000 acres of undeveloped land in Fernsley, which he would, witness thought, himself, 36567-60.—Landlords in this Union would probably be unwilling to part with land, 36568-9.—Estates Commissioners should have power to compel sales, that the land might be added to the small holdings, 36561, 36566.—It was immaterial who had the compulsory powers, 36567-8.—The rural district could supply a good deal of land to relieve congestion; the acreage of farms over 100 acres in each electoral division was: Annagh, 772 acres; Ballyvaughan, 776; Cloonahane, 773; Fernsley, 2,909; Milrowa, 381; Moy, none; Ballyvaughan, none; Cloughane, 431; Killybeggy, 521; Killybeggy, 2,151; Killyshanny, 227; Lisnasherry, 130; Lurgagh, 1,535; Southstown, 940; Ballyvaughan, 1,116; Ballagh, 127; Clonney, 301; Ennistymon, 1,688; Killymorea, 1,907; Maughersburgh, 584; 36562-3.—In Killybeggy additions to holdings could be provided within reasonable distance of present holdings, but in that district individuals would be content to resign their present holdings for sub-division among their neighbours if other economic holdings were provided for themselves, 36564-5.

MIGRANTS.

Such migrants would not ask for the tenant-right of holdings they were leaving if they required a superior holding with a house, 36564-5.—Value of the new home would probably not equal the tenant-right resigned, as the latter was high, 36563-4.

SCARCITY OF TILLAGH IN COUNTY CLARE.

In the grass country there were few houses; the poor people who tilld lived in uneconomic holdings on the mountains; the addition of good land would benefit them, 36568, 36568-9.—People of County Clare had lost the tillage habit; they were not ignorant of tillage, but labour was lacking, as the young men had to emigrate, 36561, 36560-2.—It was no use putting bad land under grass, as it would not fatten cattle; tillage in witness's district was seen only on bad land, because the poor men could not afford to get the good land, which was all in large farms, 36564-5.—The reason the best land was under grass was probably an historical one, 36563, 36566.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Department of Agriculture did little in this neighbourhood; itinerant lecturers gave instruction, which was little use without demonstration plots, of which there were none, 36567-7.—Experimental plots would be of little interest when there was little tillage, 36568.—People in this district were helped by relatives in America, 36569.

CONSIDINE, MR. MICHAEL.—continued.

BALLYGHALINE BAY; PROPOSED BOAT-SLIP.

Ballygaline Bay was without any harbour or artificial landing-place; thirty families lived there, and were dependent on the fishing; there was great difficulty and danger in launching and landing boats on the beach, 36661, 36674-6.—The fishermen used canoes, which they had to carry up on their backs through the rocks, 36677.—Nine years ago the Rural Council engaged to contribute £80 towards a boat-slip, and Board of Agriculture promised a contribution; however, the Local Government Board and the Rural Council had no power to contribute towards a slip, but if the County Council contributed £180 the Local Government Board would give a grant of £1,200; the £180 having been granted by County Council, the Local Government Board required the sum to be £200, to which they would add £1,500, but when the £200 was produced the Local Government Board said a County Council had no power to make such a grant, 36681-4, 36671.—The scheme was first initiated about ten years ago; three incidents had occurred within the last twelve months, 36665-6.—Mr. Birrell had presented a Parliamentary Bill to make the grant legal, 36667-70.—It was hoped the harbour would admit larger boats than canoes; the men desired larger boats; at present the difficulty of launching obliged the men to be often idle while Arran men were fishing, 36679-81.—Congested Districts Board kept a boat in readiness to take Arran men's fish, 36681.—If a pier were erected at Ballygaline it might be used by Arran men as convenient for markets, especially for Liscannore, but they might still give the fish to Congested Districts Board's boat, 36683-5.—Excellent mackerel was obtained at Ballygaline; there had been several agents curing mackerel there, 36678.—Mackerel was not a local market, 36686-7.—Larger fish, such as cod and ling, were obtained by Arran men and sent fresh in ice to Galway, 36688-90.—Ballygaline people had no transit facilities, they had to sell fish locally or cure them, 36690-1.

QUARRIES.

Work was obtained on quarries in this district; quarries were not doing well, 36659.—Since the Shamrock Stone Quarries were opened Englishmen had been employed in the best positions; Irishmen dressing curb received 4d. and 6d. an hour; Englishmen, for the same work and time, got 12d. or 1s.; Irishmen were equally expert, 36721-2, 36726-8.—Stone was too hard for Englishmen to work, their wrists became swollen; only Yorkshiremen could work it successfully; the majority of these Yorkshiremen were originally Irishmen who migrated to Yorkshire, 36722-4.—One hundred and twenty men had been employed on the quarry; there were now about forty, mostly Irishmen; the English had left owing to a slump in the work; they had refused to take up a challenge to turn out as much work as the Irish, 36726.—Business at the quarries was decreasing; one quarry had been closed for years, and another partially worked for two years; cost of carrying stone to Eng. land was too great, 36729-303.

MACNAMARA, MR. HENRY V.

See pp. 156-73.

DESCRIPTION OF WITNESS'S ESTATE.

Witness had resided at Ennistymon for the last twenty-five years on an average nine months in the year; he owned about 12,600 acres in Ennistymon and Ballyvaughan Rural Districts, and owned practically the whole town of Ennistymon; he had about 550 tenants, occupying large grazing farms, small farms, named farms, winterage farms, town parks, concrete holdings, farms in roadside; there were about 550 holdings; he had been a member of Board of Guardians for twenty-two years; for last seven years he had been his own agent; in most cases he employed his own tenants as rent receivers, etc.; management of his estate cost about 3½ per cent., 36637-8.—A winterage farm was a craggy farm of limestone formation, which could carry cattle from 1st November to 1st May, without the necessity of giving them hay, except when snow was lying, 36639.

MACNAMARA, MR. HENRY, V.—continued.

--Witness was on good terms with his tenants; he found them honest; he occasionally accommodated them with bills; they generally met their obligations, 36639.

QUARRIES.

Stone quarries on witness's estate paid about £150 a year in rents; the most valuable were the Donagore Quarries of white sandstone; it was very hard stone; some was said to have been used in new War Office in Whitehall; wages at Donagore were £12,000 or £13,000 a year; Caherlough Quarry paid £1,000 a year in wages, and some smaller quarries about £1,000 or £1,500, 36639-43.—The quarries were not all on witness's estate, 36641.—He let his; Donagore and Caherlough quarries were worked by English companies; smaller quarries were let to witness's small farmers, sometimes at 4s. a perch for eleven months, 36645.—The stone was shipped from Liscannor Harbour, which was in a bad state; the County Council was the harbour authority, 36645-7.—The £12,000 was chiefly spent on local labour, but perhaps included wages to officials introduced to superintend the work; these officials spent their money in the district; at first expert workers had been introduced to instruct local people in dressing stone, 36648-9.—Local men were now skilled at dressing stone, and earned 25s. to 30s. a week, at 8d. an hour; most of them were small farmers and their sons, 36647, 36650.

EMPLOYMENT.

Fishing was carried on along the coast; the question of a boat slip at Ballygaline had been long simmering; a slip would create no great wealth, 36661.—A really good harbour, costing £20,000 or £30,000, would be of value; Board of Works had wasted money on boat slips and small harbours everywhere; the money should have been concentrated on one county each year; that spent round Clare coast should have been concentrated on Liscannor, where a regular trade could have been created and fisheries benefited, 36661-3.—Kelp was burned, and seaweed and manure carted to Gort and sold; demand for Kelp was less than formerly, 36663-4.—A golf links at Liscannor employed men and boys as caddies, 36664.—Ennistymon town had improved within the last twenty years, and had good fairs and markets; population had remained stationary, 36664, 36666-8.

CONGESTION AND THE ECONOMIC HOLDING.

The district generally was comparatively prosperous, though population had diminished; decline in population synchronised with Land Acts, 36654-5, 36659-61.—Clare was not a congested county; Ennistymon Rural District, with population of 18,064, extended from Miltown-Malahy to Liscannore, and from Fisher-street to five miles beyond Ennistymon, 36707.—There might be very small areas of congestion in this part of Clare, 36717.—There was no congestion, if the definition of a congested district was the present one, defining a congested district as one where the valuation per head was under 30s., and a fifth of the population resided in the district, 36722-3.—Witness would test congestion by the population rather than by valuation; the question whether a farm was economic should be tested by the size of the family, 36718-9.—Witness did not think there was much congestion in Killybegh; about twenty-five of the fifty-seven holdings under 24 valuation were half-acre holdings let by witness to fishermen for potato plots, at 24 per acre; this land was remarkably fine sandy land, 36705, 36710.—The thirty-two remaining holdings under 24 valuation were farms each having two or three cows and an acre of tillage, on which a farmer could live comfortably; one farmer might have more than one holding, 36711-2.—Holders of these farms could pay their rents from the proceeds of the farms, without other assistance, 36713.—An economic rent was the amount of rent the land could produce after paying the worker of it a certain percentage, and after paying for certain expenditure on the farms, 36714.—Congested Districts Board's work should not be extended, as spoon-feeding was enervating to the people; Clare was better without the Board, 36727-30.—If the country were let alone political economy would settle for itself the question of uneconomic holdings, either through emigration, improvement of farming, or the coming of more land on to the market, 36732-4.

MacNAMARA, Mr. HENRY, V.—continued.

FISCAL POLICY AND TILLAGE.

Free trade had done much harm to Ireland; its abandonment would cause produce to fetch better prices, and the farmer would profit, 39731, 39734-6, 39741-4.—Extension of tillage would be a great benefit, but was useless under England's present fiscal policy, which had killed tillage in Ireland, 39661.—Tillage was decreasing in England also, 39665.—Under protection mills not now working would be started, and employ farmers' sons; quarrying also was a resource, 39737-40.—Protection was the only real remedy for congestion, 39745.—Protection should be extended to England as well as Ireland; both countries were under protection till repeal of Corn Laws, 39763, 39776.—Under protection Ireland's population increased enormously between 1800 and 1840, and what evil protection caused in Great Britain Ireland escaped, 39765-7.—The tariff should be an elastic one, 39768-9.—Agricultural industries would result from a modified form of protection, and capital would be attracted; England and Ireland would benefit equally, 39772-4.—The state of Ireland between 1840 and 1881, after the first famine, when great emigrations took place, was the state to which the creation of small uneconomic holdings would bring her back, 39665-7.—Ireland was pre-eminently a pasturage and dairying country, 39670.

MISTAKE TO BREAK UP BEST GRASSING LANES.

It was a mistake to break up the best grasing lands; most of the great lands in Kullinagh were first-class fattening lands, 39673-6.—Quality of Kullinagh lands varied; witness still had some farms in his hands, and divided some of them; one of 100 acres he let in portions—some portion to herdsmen, another to fishermen, another to small farmers, and he kept a portion in his own hands; the tenants all grazed their portions, and derived great benefit, 39676-7.—Government should try experimental farming in each county, pay fair rents and rates, and publish a balance sheet; witness would give the land at a fair rent; without a fair rent or instalment it would not be an experiment, 39677-80.—Congested Districts Board should make the experiment rather than the Agricultural Department; the latter did little in this district, which was dairying and grazing rather than agricultural; in the matter of judging stock the people here needed no teaching, 39681-4.—Mixed tillage, such as Department recommended would not suit this neighbourhood, as the people had lost the habit of tillage, and labour was lacking; before the famine the neighbourhood was tilled; hills about Ennistymon were then tilled; witness had killed some of them himself, but they were too steep for ploughing, 39685-6.

COLONEL TOTTEHAM'S LANDS.

The 2,000 acres of Colonel Tottenham's lands at Chanasah, which Mr. Condon said were in Colonel Tottenham's hands, were all grassland, 39703, 39706; most of them would be unsuitable for enlarging buildings; Colonel Tottenham had made great improvements; he fed cattle in houses in winter, and put manure on the land; he spent much money, and was kind and charitable; he did not get a great deal of money, and had, witness thought, only two tenants; the land was in Colonel Tottenham's own hands; a part was a mountain 1,400 feet high, much of it might be used for concrete, 39703-6.—Reclaimed land was excellent tillage land, was early worked, and grew good root crops, 39706.—Witness might be said to have 2,000 acres in Ennistymon Union under tenants, if按揭 were reckoned in, 39773-8.—He would part with anything for an adequate price, 39780-1, 39784-5.—If he said he would sell the whole estate and go, 39787.

SCHEME FOR DEALING WITH LAND QUESTION.

Over-taxation of Ireland amounted to about 3½ millions, which, if returned, would be useful for public purposes in Ireland, 39743-9.—A scheme for dealing with land question had been suggested to members of English Government by witness in 1895, 39749-52.—The scheme applied both to residential holdings and to tenants in down-side occupation of grazing farms; under it purchase of holdings by tenants was to be compulsory, 39753.—On certain

MacNAMARA, Mr. HENRY, V.—continued.

conditions compulsion was to be on the landlord as well; but the scheme was now changed, the landlord being confined in his title to his estates when he could show title to the property for thirty-three years preceding the transfer to the tenant, and having the right to all royalties, so that the landlord would get a quid pro quo for the low lands, 39754.—This scheme was the basis of the Act of 1903; it contained a suggestion of zones, 39755.

LANDSCAPES.

Landlords would probably voluntarily give grants for relief of congestion, if approached reasonably and offered reasonable rents, 39756.—Holders with increased holdings should still remain tenants, 39757-8.—So far land purchased for small holdings and actually paid for, amounted to no more than a tenth of the land in Ireland, 39759.—The purchase process was unpleasant for landlords, who got interest for money, but had five per cent. to pay on charges, 39760-1.—Witness did not see that landlords must necessarily part with their land eventually, 39762.—Resident landlords were valuable; witness himself spent in Ennistymon as much rent as he got from it, 39775.—Abolition of existing landlords would mean the rise of other landlords, 39776.—Many Irish landlords would probably soon leave the country, 39779.

RE-FORESTATION.

Re-forestation would afford needed shelter against Atlantic gales, 39686.—It was difficult, but not impossible to grow trees in this district; witness had made experiments; one plot seventeen years old, in an exposed place, was satisfactory for shelter and small game covers, 39687-9.—It was on good loamy soil, rather low-lying, 39693-3.—Mixed wood was planted; alder was the best to nurse, 39694.—One side was wind-blown; a screen should always be put up, and planting done within it, 39695-1.—There was a good deal of moisture, but the land got very dry, 39693.—It would be a great benefit if Government planted trees along public roads, renting the land for a number of years, paying occupiers a bonus for maintaining trees, and giving landlords a percentage on timber sold; there should not be a new board for forestry, but some existing Department should superintend the work; re-forestation would eventually pay; one county should be taken at a time; land along road-side should be taken indiscriminately that no one might complain, 39695-8, 39700.—Roads would thus have agreeable shelter for cycling and motoring, but they would remain wet longer, 39699.—Re-forestation should not be on a large scale, but planting along the roadside would accustom people to trees, to which at present they objected, 39702.

O'LOUGHLIN, Mr. DANIEL.

See pp. 174-7.

NATURE OF WITNESS'S EVIDENCE.

Witness resided at Liscloskey, and was representative of the Ballyvaughan district and the Clare County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, 39604-6.—His evidence dealt with the worst line from Moy to a point separating Ballyvaughan from Galway, and also with decrease of population in County Clare generally, 39608.

DECLINE IN POPULATION IN CLARE.

In 1850 or 1851 population was 262,000; in 1907 it was 109,000; if the decrease continued at this rate want of labour would make high-class agriculture or agriculture in any remunerative form impossible, 39606.—Emigration was principally to America, to some extent to Canada and Australia, 39609-10.

CONGESTION AND LAND AVAILABLE FOR ITS RELIEF.

In Moy Electoral Division there were 311 ratings, 123 being under £4 and 196 between £4 and £10; in Liscloskey 256 ratings, sixty-seven being under £4 and forty-seven between £4 and £10; in Kullinagh 375 ratings, 126 at and under £4 and seventy-one between £4 and £10; 118 of these holdings in Kullinagh were valued at or under £2 10s. each; in Ballyvaughan Union over 200 holdings were rated

O'LOUGHLIN, Mr. DANIEL.—continued.

at and under 24 and 300 ratings between 64 and 230; the largest number of these holdings were on the sea coast; in Abbey, fifty-one; in Drungquin, eighty; in Killybegh, sixty-one; in Derrone, eleven, were rated rated under 24; in Abbey four were valued between 25 and 210; in Drungquin forty-five, in Killybegh forty-four, in Derrone fourteen; congestion in these cases was real, but could be dealt with by enlarging small holdings; in Killybegh Parish there was a large tract of untenanted land, some of it held on the eleven months' system and some being residential entirely; this could be distributed, first to persons having no land, or only a small portion of land appurtenant to their houses, and afterwards to small holders, 36810-1.—All could be provided for out of untenanted land, but many could, 36825-7.—The land available for redistribution was not all fit for tillage, 36828-9.—The small occupiers, who ranked as labourers, had the first claim to land, as they and their sons did most of the work of the county, 36811-4.—There was no distinct labouring class, but men without land had to labour, 36815-7.—Demand for labourers was less than the supply, because labour was expensive, 36818.—If land were given to small holders the supply of labour would not cease; where there was congestion the small holder was always the chief source of labour, 36820.—The grass lands that should be divided were mostly near the homes of small farmers, so that in most cases the holdings could be conveniently enlarged, 36821-2.—The land should be used for enlargement of present holdings, not for migration, 36823.—Landlords should be compensated for the grass lands, 36824.—This increase of holdings would arrest emigration, 36830-1.—The holdings would be a source of employment, 36832.—Others besides farmers had a difficulty in getting hands at present, 36833.—All the coast line of Clare should be scheduled as congested; if their present holdings could not be enlarged many farmers would be willing to migrate inland, 36830-2.—There was much untenanted land in Ballyvaughan Union let partly on the eleven months' system; owners would probably be willing to sell for a fair price, 36832-4.—Farms were let on eleven months' system because their value varied from year to year; payment was sometimes made in advance, 36836-7.—If farms were purchased payment would have to be made in advance, 36838.—Eleven months' system was introduced by landlords because under Land Acts they would otherwise have to serve twelve or six months' notice if they wanted to get up lands, 36839.

FISHERIES.

Fisheries needed development which would relieve congestion; Clare County Council and Ennistymon Council each voted £150 towards erection of a pier at Ballylaghane, and Department offered £1,250, but it was found that under a Grand Jury law of 1836 the county could not contribute to a pier costing more than £450, 36833-6.—Ballyvaughan oyster fishery might be made very valuable; only two banks were worked at present, one being Burrow bank, worked by a limited company, principally from Dublin, which last year raised 2540 worth of oysters for sale in Dublin, 36835-8, 36844-5.—The company bought seedling oysters from Cosmorama and put them down to fatten; experiments with spat had been made, 36840-1.—Mr. MacNamara owned about 200 acres of oyster beds, which were not worked at all now, but were very profitable thirty years ago, 36847-52.—Fish were known to abound off Clare coast, but Clare fishermen fished between Clare and Arnon Island, a few going as far as the island; Clare had little accommodation for boats, and the men's methods were primitive, 36855-8.—Small harbours existed at Milltown and Carrigrohilly; fish was difficult to procure in summer, and Liscannore hotels obtained it from Grimsby, 36859.—There was a harbour on Arnon Island, but the fishing population had disappeared, 36860-2.—Apparently there was a shelter harbour at Ballyvaughan; in Ballylaghane about 100 people lived chiefly by fishing, but unless better facilities were provided fishing would cease, 36863.—Fishing would pay if men could get to sea and return in safety, 36864, 36871.—The fishing population was formerly large, and must have had boats, 36865-6.—Fishing had declined gradually;

O'LOUGHLIN, Mr. DANIEL.—continued.

people now had better land, and tilled it, going occasionally to fish, 36862.—With better facilities the fishing population would return, 36870.

QUARRIES.

Quarries had for fifteen years given employment, which alone prevented the population of Liscannore and Ennistymon from disappearing almost altogether, 36872.—About 200 persons were employed in two quarries throughout the year, the district benefiting to amount of £350 per week, 36873.—Quarries were confined to one district, 36874.—The quarries had financial difficulties; if these were overcome the district would derive a large income from this source, 36876-8.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

Cottage industries were chiefly needed in Ballyvaughan district and electoral divisions of Drungquin and also in Killybegh, where the large farms of untenanted land available could not profitably be divided, as the soil was not arable and the holdings were large and sparsely watered, 36877.—Hand loom weaving for men, and embroidery for girls, might be introduced, and produce good profits, 36878, 36883-3.—No such industry had previously existed in Clare, except knitting, which had been successful at Ennis, 36879, 36884, 36886.—It was carried on by private capitalists; County Committee's contribution to training of girls was to be withdrawn, as the work was on a profitable basis; it employed forty hands, 36887-90.—There were plenty of sheep for a woollen industry, 36890-1.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Department of Agriculture had done little in this neighbourhood except regarding cattle; without disapproval of the method of marking certain bulls as premium bulls before purchase, as the value of the premium was always added to the price of the bull, so that the seller, not the buyer, really pocketed the premium, 36885, 36891-2.—Farmers might get more than one premium, 36892.—The indiscriminate service of cows did not improve the breed of cattle, 36893.

CASEY, Mr. PATRICK.

See pp. 177-8.

RUMAN AND KILKEEDY PARISHES.

Ruman and Killeedy Parishes contained 270 families, at total valuation of £336 2s., an average of 23 2s. per family; only 159 of these occupiers were over £10 valuation; there were nineteen grass farms held by outsiders from Limerick, etc., and eleven farms held on the eleven months' system; three farms were partly derelict, the local people having taken measures to prevent outsiders from occupying them, 36911-2, 36917, 36920.—Ruman and Killeedy were within eight miles of Ennis, between Ennis and Ennistymon, 36914-5.—In the rest of Corofin Union, outside these parishes, the farms were nearly all held by outsiders on eleven months' system; they had a total valuation of £2,174 10s., 36915.—The lands held on eleven months' system could be easily acquired; they were among the best in the county, 36916.—They were near the small occupiers' holdings, and sufficient to enlarge all holdings needing enlargement, 36918-9, 36923.—Only hark and dogs resided on them; the tenants were generally living at a distance, 36923-2, 36932-4.—These farms were used for grazing sheep and cattle, but would be suitable for agriculture, 36925-4.—Owners would probably be willing to sell at a fair price, 36927.—The land should be acquired for enlarging small holdings, 36928.—None of this land was eroded land, 36930.—If small occupiers had their holdings enlarged they would probably till a great deal of their land, 36931.

DRAINAGE.

Drains were needed, as 400 acres of land were drowned for about ten months in the year; Colonel Synges, a former owner, took steps to drain it, but his successor stopped the work, probably from lack

CASEY, Mr. PATRICK.—continued.

of funds, 39935-42, 39944-5.—The flooded portion extended over two miles, 39952.—The river flooding it had no name; it flowed from Ballyculligan Lake into the Fergus River, 39937, 39953-6.—Some of the land was cut for meadow and some held in commonage, 39957.—This drainage question had been placed before the County Council, 39946, 39950.—The case had not been placed before Drainage Commission, though Drainage Commission's report would apply to it, 39958-9.

BROWNE, Mr. ERNEST.

See pp. 173-82.

EXPERIENCE OF WITNESS.

Division of land into small economic holdings in order to retain labour in the country, and how to obtain the land was subject of witness's evidence, 39961.—Witness had an estate in Clare, and was agent for several estates, 39962.—He had farmed about 2,000 acres for twenty-three years in five counties, 39963.—He had about fifty Irish acres under tillage; three Irish acres equalled five English acres, 39964-5.—Witness's experience was all in Munster, 39968.

LAND INSUFFICIENTLY WORKED.

Congestion was a source of great discontent in Ireland; it could be removed, 40035-6.—Land should be taken away from owners who did not work it properly and sufficient labour employed to bring it up to its full carrying power; such owners were robbing the country of its taxable capacity; they should be compensated; if such forfeiture were possible owners would probably employ more labour; at present they employed labourers as little as possible, 40014-3, 40037, 40038-40.—Large tracts of land not at present yielding all they might were by nature best fitted for tillage, which should be done in rotation, and could be done efficiently only by the small man; a man with 100 acres who kept four labourers and three horses, could till twelve to fifteen acres well; if a 400-acre man kept three men, or a herdman and two dogs, most of the land must return to moss if it were like tillage land; tillage and sub-soiling could only be done by the small man and his family, who should be given a fair inducement to stay in the country, 40016-3.—Enlargement of small uneconomic holdings would give an outlet in Ireland for labour of holders' families, 40027, 40028-6.

OCCASION TO BREAKING UP FATTENING LANDS.

Economic holdings should be created, especially where large holdings were surrounded by small uneconomic holdings and where these large holdings were suitable for mixed farming; more tillage was needed on tillage land; fattening land should not be divided into small holdings, as it was too heavy for tillage, and was needed to finish cattle by grazing; there was plenty of land suitable for tillage, 39955-7, 39977-9, 40012.

LANDS SPECIALLY FITTED FOR FATTENING OR TILLAGE.

There was heavy land in Limerick and Meath; there was more limestone and a heavier soil in Limerick; tilling could succeed only on the fringes of these lands, not on the fattening portion; dairying land was a rich land which required more sub-soil but less heavy clay than fattening land, 39968-70.—Geologically, certain lands were fattening lands, namely, heavy deep soil with limestone, 39971-3.—Cattle could be fattened on produce of poor land if it were tilled, 39974-6.—If the surface of essentially fattening land were turned down with the spade it would take twelve to twenty years to recover, 39979.—Essentially fattening lands might be used otherwise than for fattening, but not so usefully, 39981.—Witness had tillage land in Clare worth 25s. the Irish acre, which produced better crops than other land worth 50s. the Irish acre, 39981.—Witness did not justify the present system of fresh fattening; tillage farmers did not go through the rotation; twenty-five Irish acres, that is forty-two statute acres, would constitute an economic holding in Munster, 39984-5.—Fattening farms should

BROWNE, Mr. ERNEST.—continued.

be fifty or one hundred Irish acres; 500 Irish acres would be best; witness himself would give 23 acres for fattening land, 39986-7.—There was fattening land in the Golden Vale, County Limerick, and in Meath, and Kildare, and a little also in Clare, 39988-9.—None of the Golden Vale land was suitable for tilling except here and there on the fringe, 39990-1, 39993.—For the last twenty-five years only a hundredth part of the Golden Vale land had been tilled; it might have been tilled by the spade before then when Irish people lived on potatoes and milk, 39992, 39994.—At that time wheat was grown and run out the land; wheat land was stiff clay, barley land more friable; wheat land would not grow grass well, and eighty years ago was burned for lack of manure, a system whose injurious effects were still apparent, 39995-6.

PROPORTION OF HOLDINGS THAT SHOULD BE TILLAGED.

A man with twenty-five Irish acres could support himself and his family decently with ten cows, winter and summer; he should feed the cows in winter and keep six acres under tillage, that is, seven with roots and oats, 39998-9, 40001-2, 40013.—He should have a root crop of 2½ acres and turnips and mangels, 2½ acres in potatoes, and the balance in oats, which would be a meadow the following year; if all the land were tillage land it should all submit to this rotation every ten or twelve years, 40003-5.—A good deal of the land would always be under grass; if all the land were not tillage ten cows would provide sufficient manure to top-dress the meadow land, 40006.—The cows would be dairy cows; in winter they would be in stalls at night and out in the day; from 15th May to 20th November they would be always out, 40007-9.—Hay would be given them in winter; tillage provided fodder for cattle in winter, but many men owned forty or fifty cows without half an acre of tillage, 40010.—Small farmers tilled a suitable quantity of land in proper rotation in parts of County Limerick, Paltham, and up to New Tipperary, where the land was tillage land, and in King's County, where it was barley land, and in Kilkenny and Queen's County, 40018.—This was not the case in Clare, though tillage was better in Clare than in some parts of Limerick, 40020.—Twenty-five-acre holders always treated the land better than other holders, 40021.—Most of Clare and Limerick Counties were under grass, 40024.—The farms averaged fifty acres, but much was rocky, much bog; average was no guide to the farm's value, 40025-6.

AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION.

When holdings had been enlarged a system of general instruction in agriculture would be an advantage; the rising generation would probably see this, 40028.—A technical knowledge of farming should be taught to boys, 40030-1.—With proper instruction the tendency to till properly would increase, 40032.

BONUS FOR WELL-KEPT FARMS.

Public premiums, or a prize system for well-kept farms would arouse interest in work, but Government bonus would be better, 40029.—Witness had evicted tenants who did not treat their farm properly; nearly all of these were now back.

SHOWINGS OF EVICTED COMMISSIONERS IN DEALING WITH CASES OF EVICTED TENANTS.

Some had returned before Estates Commissioners began to look after evicted farms; in other cases witnesses and evicted tenants wrote to Estates Commissioners on the subject, but the Commissioners were slow in correspondence and unsatisfactory to deal with; witness had, therefore, reinstated the tenants himself, but they could not get their grants for stock, 40037.—Before the 1903 Act rules of these reinstated tenants had been scaled down to the second best rents of their neighbours; they were eleven months' tenants living on their holdings, 40039-42.—If the estates were sold these reinstated tenants would be in same position as others and would buy at the same price, 40043-4.—Witness had had much difficulty with Estates Commissioners over a tenant who had been evicted and whom witness wished to reinstate; this tenant was to pay

BROWNE, Mr. ERNEST.—continued.

a reduced rent of £24 a year and hay at 25 years' purchase as a second term tenant; Estates Commissioners were applied to for a grant, and sent an inspector, who required the rent to be further lowered; when everything was arranged the Commissioners said they would give only 25 years' purchase, to which witness agreed; finally when the tenant came in there was delay about the promised grant for stock and implements; witness would never deal with Estates Commissioners again, 40046-5.—In two other cases the Estates Commissioners had placed witnesses in an awkward position, 40046-7.—In dealing with the Commissioners delays were constant, 40049.

TERMS OF PURCHASE.

In the Land Conference Report it was agreed by the members, Messrs. Redmond and O'Brien, Colonel Bouverie and Lord Dunsany, that it be first at 24 years if since were done away with, 40050.—Witness agreed with this report as eminently fair, 40054, 40057-8.—Lands were sold at 18 and 19 years' purchase under Ashbourne Act, but the rents were first term, and 4½ per cent. interest was paid; interest was now 3½ and tenants all second terms; many of the estates formerly sold were encumbered and were sold for mortgages, the owner having no real interest, 40054-5.—If 15 years' purchase represented the Land Conference settlement witness would not agree with that settlement; in recommendations of the Land Conference it meant 6s. in the pound on first term rents, 40059.—Under the last Act the tenant could not be asked to pay 27 or 28 years' purchase, nor could the landlord accept much less because his second term income would be reduced, 40060.—The bonus was brought in to make up the difference, and there were certain advantages to the landlord in legal expenses and the re-purchasing of land; the re-purchasing seldom took place, 40061-3.—In the case of purchases by the Congested Districts Board none did not apply, 40064.—Witness himself had never dealt with Congested Districts Board, but had always heard them praised; he himself had the selling of 27 estates, 13 were sold, 21 and 24 years' purchase being the average price, and under that price the landlord lost from £2 to 15 per cent. of his present second term gross income, while the tenant got 4s. 6d. in the pound on his second term rental, 40065.—This was fair, as the 21 and 24 years' purchase at 3½ per cent., the most at which a trustee could invest, would bring in about the present income, 40065-8.—An investment at 4 per cent. would not give a better security than Irish land; the latter would improve, 40068.—Purchase money of Irish estates was generally paid to trustees, most of the land being settled property, 40070-3.

RENTS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

English lands had lower rents than Irish in two or three counties only, 40075.—The returns in England were about 38 per cent. in the last 25 years; in Ireland about 45, and now another 30 was being obtained on the purchase money, 40076.—English and Irish rents were different; official returns were not in Irish acres, 40077-8.—In Surrey and Herefordshire higher rents were paid than in Ireland, 40078.—English and Scotch tenants had the value of improvements, 40079.

GLYNN, Rev. P.—continued.

See pp. 163-92.

DEFINITION OF CONGESTION.

Definition of congestion under Act of 1891 was that valuation per head of whole population of electoral division and one-fifth of county must be below 30s.; result was, Clare was not scheduled, as, though population of certain divisions had less than 30s. per head valuation, they did not reach 20 per cent. of population of county, 40083-3, 40101.—Any electoral division where 50 per cent. of holdings were of valuation of less than 30s. per head should be scheduled; county should not be taken into account, 40084, 40087, 40103-4, 40130, 40262, 40287-8.—Such a definition an advantage to small holders, 40105-6.—People would be taken as they were found on definite holdings, 40269-70.—In Kilkenny Electoral Division

GLYNN, Rev. P.—continued.

809 people of £4 valuation and under, 115 of £4 to £10, 155 over £10; if the whole were taken, valuation would be more than 30s. per head, therefore only 50 per cent. of population should be taken; 22s. per head valuation might be enough, 40088.—Where there were large ranches valuation of county would never be 30s. per head, although in some districts one-fifth of population had no higher valuation, 40097.—Duty of varying areas, where necessary, might be left to body like the Board, 40107-8.

SCHEDULING OF CO. CLARE PROPOSES.

Co. Clare originally not scheduled at all; on passing of Local Government Act a scheduled portion of Galway was transferred to Clare, 40099-100.—Areas of West Clare should be scheduled, and people transferred from uneconomic holdings to ranches, 40093.—Unintelligible that it was not done before; only accounted for by member for Clare being more interested in Mallowland than Ireland, 40132.—Witness's definition of congestion applied to nearly all Kilkenny and Ennistymon Unions, 40263.

EMIGRATION.

Decrease in population of Clare between 1891 and 1901 was 11·2 per cent., 20 per cent. in one electoral division, and in another 15 per cent. in seventy years, 40092.—Four electoral divisions in Kilkenny District with valuation of 30s. per head in 1801; since then population had fallen 11·2 per cent., 40096.—Places like Clare would soon be void of population unless something were done; population in 1841 286,583, in 1901 only 112,159; young people emigrated at rate of 1,500 a year, so that population was now only about 100,000; county had lost 143,649 persons by emigration since 1851, 40108-10.—In a township near Kilkenny population had fallen 35 per cent. between 1891 and 1901 through emigration, 40149.—Lack of means of living the cause of emigration, not restless Irish spirit, 40111.—If whole families went there would be some hope for country, but able-bodied emigrated, leaving old and cripples at home; increase of lunacy a result of least fitted remaining at home, 40112.—At famine time people had free passes, and emigrated en masse; since 1851 individuals went, 40113.—Total number of emigrants from Ireland 35,000 a year, 40114-5.—Emigration to small extent would always take place, 40115.—That this was not emigration; it was blood-letting, 40115.—Population decreasing steadily, 143,649 persons out of 200,000 in fifty-seven years; in Clare, with healthy air and big families, it would have tripled in same time but for emigration, 40117.—Less emigration from large holdings than from small, 40255.—No objection as to it if population were kept up to numbers county could reasonably support, 40118.—Witness objected not only to wholesale emigration but to inefficient remedies; useless to tell people to stay at home unless employment were provided for them; Commission should find out remedy and apply it; country was being weakened and impoverished; numbers of workhouses increasing as population decreasing; Kilkenny and Ennistymon Unions illustrations of this, 40119.

KILKENNY UNION.

Valuation of Kilkenny Union was £53,807; population in 1901, 23,734; valuation per head of population little more than £1 17s.; in following six divisions valuation per head was £1 10s. and under, viz.:—Doonbeg, Droonbeg, Knockmole, Binnagh, Cahermurphy, Glennare, these not being the poorest divisions in Union, 40122.—In Kilkenny Electoral Division there were 309 ratings of £4 valuation and under, 115 between £4 and £10, 165 over £10; in Kilkenny Division there were thirty-one occupiers under £4 valuation, thirty-two under £10; in Glendrum Division there were thirty-four occupiers under £4, sixty-one between £4 and £10; in Killybeggs forty-five under £4, sixty-one between £4 and £10, sixty-five over £10; in Moyarta Division seventy-six under £4, thirty between £4 and £10; forty-one over £10; in Rahma Division twenty-six under £4, fifty-eight between £4 and £10, 40129.—Few divisions in Union that might not fairly be scheduled;

GLYNN, REV. P.—continued.

vast number of unproductive holdings, few employers of labour; therefore much emigration; family could not be reared on £4 or even £10 holdings; in 1862 one person out of every nine received poor relief; Kilrush Poor Law Board spent on outdoor relief 1s. 2d. in the £ on valuation, total expenditure 2s. 3d. in the £, 40120.—Stock had been the staple of things for past ten years; considering decrease of population, number receiving relief was relatively increasing, 40131.

EMIGRATION UNIONS.

Valuation per head in Kenistymon Union was about £2, poor rate was as high as in Kilrush, valuation in Clonsilla and Fermoyla Electoral Divisions under 30s. per head of population; in May Division there were 123 ratings under £4, 126 between £4 and £10; in Milltown-Mahay, including houses in town, there were 128 ratings under £4, 118 between £4 and £10; in Ballisheen 173 under £4, 108 between £4 and £10; division of Killybegh remarkable; there were 125 ratings under £4; seventy-one under £10, while there were 900 acres in neighbourhood belonging to Mr. M'Mannara, who was anxious to sell for relief of congestion, 40133, 40136.—People ought to give reasonable price; in Killybeghane there were fifty-nine ratings under £4, fifty-three between £4 and £10; in Ballyoe, out of 250 ratings fifty-one were under £4, eighty under £10; in Ballyhigh there were 138 ratings, valuation £97 13s. forty-seven under £4, seventy-one between £4 and £10; valuation of Clonsilla £1,168 16s., 125 ratings, thirty-one under £4, fifty between £4 and £10, 40132.

VALUATION OF HOLDINGS AND VALUE OF LAND.

Valuation in some of the electoral divisions indiscriminately high, because at time of valuation state of civilisation was high, price of corn good, and labour of the best kind cheap; witness's parish suffered from high valuation; Commissioners know little about land, and regulated rent by valuation, 40119, 40120-1.—Land in parish good for corn growing in 1847 and 1848.—Grew twice as much then as now, because it was till with a spade; ploughing nowadays was only scratching; people had burned land and ruined it; yet valuation remained the same, 40119, 40123-5.—In district of that kind people were paying, with poor rate, road rate, and railway rate, 12s. or 15s. an acre for land worth only 7s. or 6s.; in question of purchase landlord looked to rent fixed by Commissioners on valuation, 40119.—During negotiations for sale of estate in witness's parish agent had said estate were 30 per cent. below valuation, and tenants dare not go into court for fear of their rents being raised; rents on that small estate of £250 a year were £650 in arrears; witness would rather pay 30s. an acre for land than get it for nothing, 40121.

CAUSES OF DEPRECIATION.

Three causes of deterioration of land were—Want of spade labour on account of absence of cheap labour, which was formerly abundant, burning of land, and crops having been taken out in quick succession without manuring, 40122-3.—Two causes of perence in urgent need of improvement, fishermen, and farmers under £10 valuation, 40122.

FISHERMEN.

Three hundred fishermen on Clare coast; many had other employment, were small farmers or labourers; also collected seaweed for kelp; women sold Carrigrohanna, 40132.—Witness thought if men were trained they would take to deep-sea fishing, but not unless, 40132.—Young men might be induced to follow fish out to sea; old men would not go; they had always lived in houses, 40132.

SEAWEED.

Royalty on seaweed paid to owners of strand & lordship; men endangered their lives to get seaweed, and used to make dried weed into three cocks, one of which went to owner of strand; improvement in that respect now, 40132.—Fishermen belonged to Crown, except where there was a charter saying Crown gave it away; in some places it was free where landholders had no charter; but in other places land-

GLYNN, REV. P.—continued.

lord had established custom of royalty for 200 years, and people were too poor to contest right, 40133-4.—More a question of somewhere than carrying help through man's land; Mr. Bree's claim had been fought and reduced to one-third instead of half, 40140.—If drift weed could be cut at sea and taken to another port it would be all right; but it could not be spread on foreshore to dry without paying royalty, 40141-2.

LANDING PLACES.

Landing places required; pier needed at Ballaghina, for which Department and County Council had promised grant; creek at Goleenmore dangerous; Department promised grant to improve in six years ago; nothing done yet; witness wrote to Department about it, but they denied having made grant, 40142.

BOATS.

Carragee or canoe the only fishing boat used, except one sloop, 40142.—Congested Districts Board had given nothing to Clare fishermen, though boat had been applied for, 40143, 4.—Four men at Carragee borrowed money and bought a boat, but were not successful; they paid £100 for sloop and nets, 40144.—They fished from Carragee down to Faar, and 50 or 60 miles beyond coast, for mackerel; 300 caught in one night; sold at only 4s. a hundred, 40145-7.—They had had boat fifteen months, and would purchase with it, 40146-9.

MIDDLEMAN'S PROFIT.

Middleman made profit on fish on Clare coast; fishermen sold at 4s. a hundred; middleman sent to America and got 12s. to 16s. a hundred for them, 40148.—If curing station were established or people were helped they might hold fish for rise in market, 40150.—More buyers would come and compete if fishery were developed; they used to come when there were large takes, 40151.—Now there was sometimes only one man, 40152.—There was a railway, but fish would be delayed in transfer from narrow to broad gauge, 40153.

LAND FOR FISHERMEN.

A few acres of land for fishermen would improve their condition; they could get houses built under Labourers' Act; habits of thrift necessary, but that would follow if their condition was improved; in Ballaghina people had no plots attached to houses, and paid £4 an acre for potato plots for a season; adjacent to that Mr. M'Mannara had pieces of 204 acres, 175 acres, and others, 40153-5.—Every fisherman who worked ought to get an acre or enough to keep cow to give milk to children; land and house could be got comparatively under Labourers' Act; smaller grant of land needed for those who fished all the year round, 40156-67.

HARBOURS.

Safe anchorage at Liscannoe, two miles from Lahinch, 40156-70.—Kilrush the only other harbour; fish could be sent to Limerick by boat from there, 40171.—Harbour at Seafield, at Quilty railway station, could be made safe with little expense, 40172.

REMITTANCES FROM AMERICA.

Small farmer class supplied majority of emigrants, their condition needed amelioration most; 55 per cent. of holdings in Clare were under £10 valuation, and in West Clare 70 per cent.; occupiers married children for America, and American money supplied their means of livelihood; side by side with unproductive holdings were ranches of hundreds of acres, and no human habitation but a herd; notorious that graziers gave no employment, and that ranches ruined any town in their neighbourhood; whether did they pay; yet no sooner did a grazer fall than shopkeeper or returned American took over ranch, 40173.

ACQUISITION AND DISTRIBUTION OF LAND FOR RELIEF OF CONGESTION.

Duty of State was to take up (1) all grazing lands in occupation of owner, (2) surplus lands after occupier was left a holding of £200, 40174, 40247.—£200 might be enough, 40175a.—In Clare this would more than suffice to give land to raise holdings to £20

GLYNN, REV. P.—continued.

valuation; valuation of land in owners' occupation £23,000; of land between £200 and £200 valuation £30,286; 63 owners of valuation of over £200 hold land valued at over £30,000; if these were each left with holding of £200 there would be land for distribution of value of £17,706; this land of £40,000 valuation would be available to bring small holdings up to £10 standard; £23,000 worth of land in Clare; £40,000 required to raise unenclosed holdings to £10, 40173A.—Margin of £13,000 left for waste lands; crops could be used for grazing sheep, 40174-6.—Whole £40,000 not needed; numbers of holders under £10 valuation unsuitable for migration; some never-de-wells, some would not go; fishermen would not need to be migrated, nor small shipbuilders and carpenters who had already means of living, 40175-8.—There would also be vacant holdings to add to others, 40179.—Large number of people already had holdings of £200 valuation; unless they gave employment or tilld one-fifth they should not be allowed more than £100 valuation; managing employment useful to community; holdings should not all be one standard, 40179, 40249.—No one should be allowed to have more land than £200 valuation; if Congested Districts Board bought property they should have power to determine such tenancy, 40247.—Body charged with relief of congestion should have absolute power, 40180.—Estates Commissioners did not perform duties towards congested estates that they were supposed to perform, 40251.—Where District was established it should be obligatory on some authority to take land compulsorily for relief of congestion; by this means people might be kept at home, 40254.

MIGRATION.

No difficulty in inducing people to migrate, except the old and unenterprising; occupiers reluctant to go to another county; plenty of land in Clare itself, 40180.—There would be no disinclination to move from one end of county to another, 40181.—Local people's condition should be improved before bringing in outsiders; then they would not object; congestion in vicinity of unenclosed land should be relieved first, then from a distance within the county; after that some of tenants might be given land, if there were any available; congestions from other counties would come last; plenty of land in Clare to provide for its congests, 40183-4.

COMMONAGE.

Common grazing would lead to litigation and trouble, 40181.—Might be a good thing if people could keep from quarrelling; striping land meant a lot of room for fences, 40181A.—Never any trouble with sheep grazing; 1,500 acres commonage in witness's parish, 40182.—Once it was settled what the rights were there would be no litigation, 40183.—Trespass meant a good deal to people in small holdings in close neighbourhood, and there had been disputes, 40194-5.—Ancient custom of common management forgotten, 40195.

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Agricultural education would greatly improve condition of occupiers; Clare was backward, especially West Clare; the few resident landlords farmed as badly as tenants; Department had done nothing; £2,000 a year spent on agricultural and technical education, of which Clare got very small proportion; West Clare benefited little by expenditure on bulls and stallions; education in modern methods of agriculture needed; with improved methods land would produce twice as much; arterial and field drainage needed, 40197.

SPRAYING.

After six years' working of the Department not one-fifth of the potatoes sprayed last year, 40197, 40203.—Taught people a lesson; a good deal done this year; price of stuff increased from 22s. to 33s., 40206.—People had no machines for spraying, 40209.—But scheme was for priests to take matter up; witness had done so with success; Agricultural Committee should give bonus for spraying; it would be educational to provide stuff at reduced rate at first, 40210-11.

GLYNN, REV. P.—continued.

SCHOOL GARDENS.

An acre for a garden should be attached to every rural school, 40197, 40200, 40205.—One teacher should be skilled agriculturist, with diploma for teaching agriculture; he could get it by attending an agricultural college for six months; ridiculous that children should not be taught agriculture, 40197-7A.—If teacher did not attend course at college he would teach out of books, and be unable to demonstrate, 40203.—With practical training farmers would know how to till, and his advantage, 40204.—Everything now taught in schools wanted children from the land; nominally agriculture taught, but teacher knew nothing about it, 40201.—More reality should be attached to teaching, 40207.

DEMONSTRATION PLOTS.

Demonstration plots near the church in each parish would be of great advantage, 40197.—Beneficial to have plots or farms on peninsula stretching out to Loop Head, so as to show results of rotation crops, 40198.—Farmers would adopt tillage if there were farms in neighbourhood where they could see its advantage, 40215, 40220.—Difficult without labour, and labour was going out of the country, which was a strong reason for doing as witness suggested; at present rate of emigration there would soon be no labour in the country, 40216.—Experimental small farms of ordinary size better than plots, 40217-8.—They would be tilled in best way for locality, 40218.—In King's County and Tipperary, wherever there was a landlord who tilled his land, the small farmers around did the same; nothing of the kind done in Clare, 40221.

USEFULNESS OF DEPARTMENT.

No country with so much good land and so little agriculture as Ireland, 40225.—A cow in a field not agriculture, 40224.—Much said about agriculture in Ireland with no result, 40202.—Department created to encourage and stimulate it, but had gone on now for six years doing no good, except where agriculture was already at good stage of progress, 40223-4.

LOANS FOR IMPROVEMENTS.

Want of capital was the cause of many farms not being worked to advantage; State should lend to occupiers who had purchased a sum up to one-third advance for purchase, at rate of 3½ per cent. for 66½ years; man purchasing holding for £500 would borrow £75 for improvements, including drainage; additional interest would be little, and money judiciously expended would make holding twice as valuable, and payment of instalments of purchase easier, 40223-4.—Annuity on £300 would be 8s 15s.; 50s. added to that would give £75, 40225-6.—Tenant had paid £12 or £13 a year rent; buying at 2½ years' purchase, with reduction of 6s. in the £, he paid only 9s. 2½ annuity, 40227.—As drainage laid on land, pressure would be relieved at time when it might be difficult to pay instalments; also the tenant got employment, and was able to improve holding, 40229.—Inspector should be employed to see that man did not get any money he did not earn, 40230.—State could lend at same rate as to purchaser; people could only borrow at prohibitive rate of 10s 10s., 40231.—Good policy for State to advance money at cheap rate for purchase; better still to advance it to make holding in good workable condition, 40232.—Annuity less when holding was purchased and improved than present rent, 40233-6.—Deduction was that rent was enormous, 40237.—Old system of high rents a factor in producing existing condition of country, 40238.

PRICES OF SMALL HOLDINGS.

Owing to system of purchase within the zones, prices paid in poorer districts were excessive; fair land near markets was worth 25 and 27½ years' purchase; inferior land in remote district dear at any price; yet tenants were anxious to buy to get rid of arrears and to get the few shillings reduction in the £; in most cases competent inspector would say holdings were so security for instalments; congestion stereotyped by sale of small holdings; slight relief afforded by Act of 1903 would not prevent emigration; Act a dead letter in Clare, owing to high prices demanded by landlords; from November, 1903, to March, 1906, only £219,584 applied for; average purchase price,

GLYNN, Rev. P.—continued.

exclusive of bonus, was 200 years; average price under Ashbourne and Balfour Acts 18-9 years; most holdings purchased in Clare were uneconomic, and a high price was paid for them; second term tenants purchased at 22-6 years' purchase, exclusive of bonus; their average rent was £10 8s.; non-judicial tenants purchased, without bonus, at 21-4 years; their average rent was £10 18s., 40239.—Holdings should be made economic before being sold, 40240-42.—Sale of land had a different thing from sale of good land, 40241.—If land were not security for annuity neither was it for rent; ridiculous for landlord to make no distinction, 40242.—Grassier with eleven months' letting could not purchase; one who was a twelve months' tenant or judicial tenant could; policy of State was that no more than £3,000 could be advanced; that was increased to £5,000, and, under Wyndham Act, to £7,000; a pity that it was not stated plainly that the advance was to cover case of tenants evicted under plan of campaign, etc., 40243-4.—Poverty, congestion, and grazing all being stereotyped, 40245.—Outrageous for public money to be advanced up to £7,000 to grazer, 40246.

KILKEE.

A Clare landlord near Killee offered to sell to tenants in 1896 or 1897, for sixteen years' purchase; after Act of 1903 passed tenants agreed to buy at twenty-three years' purchase; they backed out of offer, and landlord sold to Estates Commissioners at twenty-two or more years' purchase; sixty families in the four townlands sold; valuation £1 4s. 4d. per head; in one townland population fell 36 per cent. between 1861 and 1891, 40248.—Little grass land in West Clare; 200 or 400 acres near Quilly; in North Clare it was all grazing, 40249.—Chief complaint was that Estates Commissioners should agree to such a sale, 40249-51.—Inspector saw it and declared it value for money, 40250-51.—Body like Congested Districts Board should deal with such an estate before it was sold; buying land at a distance and transferring some of the uneconomic people, while their holdings could be amongst remainder, 40251-5.—If emigration were to be stopped, sale of uneconomic holdings must cease, 40251.—Board or some body should improve land which was in derelict condition before giving it to people, 40252.

CARRIGROH.

Same landlord had estate in Carrigroh, with a quantity of cut-away bog; purchase negotiated in 1894, when he promised bog to tenants to enlarge holdings; negotiations fell through; bog sold to tenants on other estates as punishment; so tenants alleged if they had agreed to terms of twenty-three years' purchase sale would have gone through; twenty or more tenants on estate, with valuable holdings of few acres of cut-away bog, for which they paid £2 a year; occupiers lived by sale of turf and money from America; bog the only one within six miles; would last only two years, and then there would be no security for annuities, 40261.

INCREASE IN PRICE OF LAND SINCE ACT OF 1903.

Price of land went up automatically after passing of Act of 1903, because it could not be purchased under a certain price, or except within acres; at same time value of land was going down, 40267-9.—Landlord argued second term tenant should pay more, as he had been into court and got reduction; reply to that was reduction was given as land was worth no more, 40266.—Number of years' purchase should follow current rent; price in Clare had gone up five years' purchase, and if bonus was added, and if payment of legal expenses were counted, nine years' purchase; disputable that 5s. reduction would enable tenant of tenants to prosper, 40261.

MURRAY, Mr. JOHN.

See pp. 193-5.

RAILWAY RATES FOR FISH.

Railway rates for fish from Killee were high; 17s. 6d. a ton brought fish from Killee to Liverpool; only 14s. from Clifden or Dingle, 40273.—Price realised for fish from £12 to £14 a ton, generally £12;

MURRAY, Mr. JOHN—continued.

sometimes when market was glutted fish realised less than cost of freight, 40274-8.—Rates for fresh fish were 3s. a hundred from Killee to Dublin; reduction to 1s. 6d. would be a help, 40279.—No special cheap rates for fish in Ireland; towns divided into zones; all within zone paid same rate; reduction of rate would help both fishermen and middlemen; expense of freight cooked on fishermen, 40280-3.—Middlemen sometimes lost heavily, but as a rule he had profit, 40283.—No fish bought for last three months, 40287.—Macdonell came from Milhaven-Mulvey to Clare Head, 40288.—That railway had a bonorial guarantee, which varied according to loss on working; it was 5d. this half-year, 4d. next, 40289-91.—Provision of facilities for carrying fish would be to interest of railway company; they would carry twice as much; amount earned would be more; guarantee less; without had represented this to manager, who replied rate could not be reduced, 40293-5.—Railway should carry fish more favourably because they got grant of public money to make it and to pay dividends, 40296.

PIERS NEEDED.

No pier in County Clare to land fish in with sailing boats; at Farragh, within two miles of Killee, £40 spent on closing gap between two reefs would enable men to fish twice as often as they did; the whole difficulty was getting in and out; some difficulty towards Loop Head, 40297-9.—Water deep in Killee Bay; breakwater there already; pier to enable sailing boats to come in and deliver fish could be built there, 40299-301.—Macdonell brought to Killee in the morning was caught the night before; 1,000 or 600 brought as a rule, 40302-3.—Average of £1 realised on night's fishing, 40306.—Boats used were curraghs carrying three or four nets 60 yards long; no sailing boat could be used without pier, 40304-5.—Pier at Carrigroh was pulled up river; boats discharging there could not fish again till following night; too far up river and from railway to fish from regularly, 40311, 40316.—Labourer pier not so safe; boats could only come there by day, 40311.—No pier in Clare where open or deck boats would be safe, 40310.—Nobby or mink would be safe during winter only in Kilrush, Carrigroh, or Ballyvaughan, 40312-4.—On stormy day in summer Carrigroh would be the safest landing; from there and Vent men could only fish three nights a week, 40315.—Killee bends railway and immediately on fishing ground, so that men could fish every night regularly; pier there would be very useful, 40315.—Starboard could not be built, but pier could, 40317.

SEASON FOR FISHING.

Autumn fishing better than spring fishing; it lasted from September to Christmas; in 1906 season was stormy; best fish caught after Christmas, 40326-9.

DRAINAGE AND RECLAMATION OF BOGS.

There were bog districts in Clare where people lived on very small poor holdings; advantageous to drain places, make roads into bogs, and enlarge holdings, 40312.—Drainage easy; good fall either into Atlantic or Shannon, 40321-3.

MISCAL, Mr. MICHAEL.

See pp. 193-6.

AREA, POPULATION, INDEBTEDNESS OF KILRUSH UNION.

Rural portion of Kilrush Union comprised twenty-seven electoral divisions, divided into four dispensary districts; area of union 126,170 acres, population 24,556, valuation £43,580; indebtedness of union as follows:—Balance due to 31st March, 1907, Killee, £819 3s. 4d. at 3½ per cent. for 30 years; Cross, £27 12s. at 1 per cent. for 30 years; Milloogh, £24 2s. 8d. at 3½ per cent. for 30 years; Carrigroh, £58 2s. 8d. at 1 per cent. for 30 years; Corradane, £30 at 3½ per cent. for 30 years; total £970 7s. 4d.; Shanaghy Rural Ground, £158 10s. at 4 per cent. for 50 years; Partry Rural Ground, £23 12s. at 4 per cent. for 30 years; Labourers Act, 1903, £2,844 15s. at 3½ per

MESCAL, Mr. MICHAEL—continued.

cent. for 50 years; gross total, \$4,016 7s. 4d.; proposed Kilree Waterworks loan, \$4,000 at 3½ per cent., area of chargeability the dispensary district on valuation of \$11,570 15s.; probable cost of new labourers' scheme, \$28,000 at 3½ per cent.; total for outdoor relief, \$1,030; guarantee of 2 per cent. on \$55,000 on barony of Moyarta on a valuation of \$27,128, together with a county-at-large charge of 2d. In the £ for West and South Clare Railway, involving tax of 7d. to 14d. per annum; there was a further charge on parishes of Kilmurree, Kilmihil, and part of Kilmurphy M'Mahon on guarantee of \$5,000, together with county-at-large charge, involving tax of 4d. to 7d. in £ on valuation of \$11,507; position of barony of Liscannoe within union was liable for county-at-large charge of 2d. in £ for West and South Clare Railway, and for deficiency in guarantee and working expenses of West Clare Railway; 223 holdings in union under one acre; 475 between one and five acres; 565 between five and fifteen acres; 5,671 acres of barren mountain land; 1,104 acres of moor, 7,437 acres of turf; 505 acres of wood; 12 acres of fallow land; 81,555 acres of grass; 34,138 acres of tillage; 5,775 acres were under water, roads, and fences, 40323.

FISHERMEN.

Union extended along Atlantic Coast for thirty miles; people in divisions of Kilmurphy and Cloonardrum lived chiefly by fishing and kelp; they had no land attached to houses, and went miles to get coarse lettuce; there was a grass farm in Cloonardrum of 383 acres, valuation \$226, let for grazing on eleven months' system; this land should be acquired compulsorily for relief of congestion; it could have been done by Congested Districts Board if district were scheduled, 40323, 40324.—Fishermen's gear of worst description; they had no aid such as was given, in scheduled areas, 40323.

CONGESTION IN DISTRICT.

Kilmurphy Union should be scheduled in order to get benefits conferred by Board, 40323, 40326.—Several electoral divisions very congested; people in miserable hovels built of wattle and thatched with peat; sometimes ten in a family; area of Dromelilly was 5,472 acres; valuation \$1,546; population 1,335; 913 holdings; townland of Stragh had 1,483 acres, valuation \$236 10s., with 54 ratings; there were about 40 households in cabins unfit for human habitation; holdings were uneconomic, and the poor people subsisted on earnings from cutting turf and loading it on railway; holdings once barren bog, reclaimed by years of hard labour; yearly outbreak of worst type of fever cost considerable sum to ratepayers; union sunk pump in locality costing \$40; holding of 383 acres in locality belonging to Mr. M. Walsh should be purchased and divided; portions of divisions of Elnagh and Kilmurphy were congested; some of the houses were on unsanitary sites, 40323.—Cultivation and drainage of barren mountain required, 40322.

LAND PURCHASE.

Land Act of 1903 no improvement on previous ones; price of land between 1885 and 1903 was 13 to 124 years' purchase; since Act of 1903 price was 15 to 244 years', with bonus of three years' purchase added; few sales in union since Act passed owing to high price demanded and landlord's unwillingness to sell; exorbitant price of the past the principal cause of poverty; rents had been reduced by Land Court by \$20 a year on an estate of which the gross rental was only \$220; during 30 years' tenancy \$2,400 had been paid by tenants over and above value of holdings; much improvement could have been effected by tenants with such a sum; Estates Commissioners should inspect all estates sold under Act of 1903 to prevent tenants paying too high price; tenants agreed to buy at too high a price in order to escape arrears of rent; land purchased at fair value the first step to future prosperity; direct sale to tenants did not improve condition of people, because they had no capital; farmers depended to great extent on money from America and elsewhere, 40323.—Such an institution as Parish Committee would encourage people to improve holdings, 40325.

MESCAL, Mr. MICHAEL—continued.

EMIGRATION.

Emigration still continued in union, 40323.

CREAMERY.

Manchester Co-operative Association built four principal creameries in union and some auxiliaries; company advanced money to farmers at 5 per cent. to enable them to buy cows principal and interest paid by giving milk to company, the latter keeping half price of milk till advance was repaid; borrowing absolutely necessary; without advances many farmers would be without beasts and unable to live, 40323, 40327, 40328-8.—Company really a private, not a co-operative company, 40326, 40322-3.—Efforts had been made to start co-operative creamery, but there was not enough capital, 40322.—Price of milk 3d. to 4d. a gallon, 40328.—Separated milk was of the worst quality, 40328.—Creamery had been in existence seven years at least, 40322.—Its erection had nothing to do with diminishing tillage, 40323.

TILLAGE.

Tillage had diminished; it was expensive; would only pay a man who had his own labour, 40323-3.

SIZE OF ECONOMIC HOLDINGS.

Uneconomic holding should be enlarged to \$20 valuation, which would represent about 40 Irish acres in Kilmurphy Union, whose land was poor; many circumstances to be considered; sometimes more land would be required, sometimes less; measure must be amount men could labour without paying for, 40324-4.—Some holdings of five to ten acres could be made economic by addition of five good acres; at any rate it would greatly improve holders' condition, 40326-2.

AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE.

Agricultural Committee had schemes for poultry-keeping, live stock, prime for fatness and itinerant instructors, 40345, 40323.—Not much benefit from schemes as yet; they had only been in existence for six years; they would develop later, and some good would accrue, 40346-7, 40350, 40350-7.—Assistance given to small farmers; no one excluded, 40351-2.

ITINERANT INSTRUCTOR.

Itinerant agricultural instructor started two years ago, 40353.—He gave lectures in schoolhouses on up-to-date methods of cultivation, sometimes accompanied by demonstration on agricultural plots, of which there were several in the county, 40354-4.—No plots in urban area; nearest one to Kilmurphy was at Moyasta, five miles away, 40348-2.

MANUAL INSTRUCTION.

Considerable sum spent on manual instruction, which was given at many centres, 40358-70.—Continuous instruction not given; instructor returned only after one or two years, when some of his former pupils had disappeared, 40371-3.—Only six weeks' instruction given except in urban areas, which only taught use of tools, etc.; course should be longer, 40374-7.—Usually 24 to 36 pupils in class, 40378.

LIVE STOCK SCHEMES.

Two-thirds nominations in home-breeding scheme devoted to farmers of lower grade; farmers of higher grade contributed to raising of rate, so had to be included in scheme, 40380.

RATE FOR INSTRUCTION.

Rate of ½d. in £ raised in County Clare last year for agricultural and technical instruction; this year ¾d. in £; County Council thought themselves justified in increasing the rate, no matter how small the results, 40380-1.

CASEY, Mr. G.

See pp. 186-7.

FISHERMEN.

Witness's farm was at Quilty West in Kilmurphy Union; size, 13 acres freehold, 40395-400.—There were 150 fishermen in Quilty, 40403.—Not

CASEY, MR. G.—continued.

including families, 40413.—Most of the men in Quilty were fishermen; also those for two miles along coast at Scarfield and Clonsilla, 40437-8.—They were industrious people, 40439.

IMPROVEMENT OF HARBOUR ACCOMMODATION.

Sheds for canoes needed; harbour very open and exposed to gales; canoes broken every year by storms, 40400, 40412.—Scarfield pier good; harbour shallow and sitting up; money spent on it would be lost unless something were done, 40406-8.—Dangerous rocks close to pier; men drowned coming in last year; feasible to cut rocks away and deepen channel, 40410-11, 40419, 40430.—There was a built harbour which could be made practicable for sail boats and schooners, 40417-9.—Schooners came in formerly, but could not now, 40419.—Scarfield was three-quarters of a mile from Quilty; 800 barrels of mackerel cured at Scarfield last autumn, 40430.—Fishery Inspector had been approached on subject of pier, and Board of Works Inspector came to see it; he said more money was wanted to have something done to pier; fishermen's project considered a good one, 40431-5.—Railway close to pier, 40426, 40435.

BOATS.

Canoes were small old boats covered with canvas; the men fished for mackerel with nets in autumn until December, 40401-2, 40403-5, 40432.—Bank for ling 15 miles out; men could go there if they had boats, 40431-2.—About 35 canoes in Quilty, three men in each, 40416.—Effort should be made to develop fishery; Board should give boats and gear, 40402, 40427.—Sailing boats and steam trawlers required, 40419, 40430.—Change of system would be great advantage, and men were inclined for it, 40430.—Note had to be left out all night because canoes could not stay out; note often drifted from their moorings to another shore, 40423.—Fishery had not been developed because entrance to harbour was bad, 40436.

KELP.

Kelp industry had owing to want of competition; Fairbairn and Co., of Glasgow, the only buyers in the country; they supplied other companies with kelp and kept down prices, only 22 10s. to 23 15s. a ton paid now; 25 to 27 a few years ago, when other companies came to buy, 40441-5.—700 or 800 tons of kelp made in Quilty district every year, 40444-5.—Poor people would no longer be able to make it as it did not pay, 40447.—Population along shore about 500; kelp industry would prevent their emigrating, 40444.

CLANCY, REV. JAMES.

See pp. 197-200.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S METHODS.

Advantages accruing from Agricultural Department not commensurate with outlay; County Council justified in declining to continue outlay unless methods were radically changed; present system of lecturing without demonstration useless, and would never have any result, 40450, 40463-5.

DEMONSTRATION PLOTS.

Best way to teach agriculture was to have a plot of ordinary land in a central place; to give notice in neighbourhood that instructor would come, and owner of plot, under his supervision, would carry out all steps necessary for production of crops; people would then see every step in agricultural process; instructor should reside in county, 40450-1, 40458-60, 40456.—Plots now existing were not shown; people knew nothing of them, 40451.—Technical instruction in principal industry, as much as technical instruction in other things, 40450, 40454.—County Committee worked with Department and took interest in their own neighbourhood; witness had brought matter of their accepted instructor's idea of sifting plots and impeding people see the results, but that it would be impossible to let people know when instructor came round; instructor did not hold it part of his duty to

CLANCY, REV. JAMES—continued.

show methods, only results, 40455-7.—Improved methods of agriculture all the more important as there was no unwatered land in Killybeg or Killybeg for relief of congestion, 40476-8.

DEMONSTRATION FARM.

Demonstration farm would be more instructive than plots, but could not be so numerous as they were expensive, 40461-4.—Instruction might take place for four or five years on one farm, and then farm could be sold and instructor could move on to another place; farm would be of immense advantage, 40465-6.

AGRICULTURE IN SCHOOLS.

Agriculture should be taught in schools; everything should be done in Ireland to give people proper instruction in agriculture, which was almost the sole industry, 40457-8, 404618.—Practical demonstration and instruction in agriculture should be introduced instead of Department's present scheme, 40468, 40469.—Schemes of hives and stallions and poultry might be continued, 40465.

MARKET FOR PRODUCE.

Market for poultry very important; that part of Department's scheme not so well carried out in Clare as elsewhere, 40460.—People dependent on local buyers, 40457.—Great market in Killybeg for produce such as potatoes, eggs, butter, table vegetables, but the people did not attend sufficiently to wants of the thousands of visitors that came to Killybeg in July, August, and September; they should be taught how to produce vegetables and place them on market, and generally to make best use of land, 40478, 40494.—Land poor, and holdings small, but large enough to be turned into market gardens, 40479-81.—Very special demand in Killybeg; even without that tillage would be the best economic use of peninsula going out towards Loop Head, 40482-3.—Department or some body should help to provide means of transit, and also assist farmers to put produce on market; good thing to have co-operation under official of Department by which farmers could bulk produce and put it on market to best advantage; uncommercial as it was done at present, 40484.

TILLAGE.

Land going out of tillage because best of the young men were all looking forward to going to America, and would not work at home, 40505-6, 40507-8.—Could not be much improvement unless something were done to change people's ideas and methods; farmers now paying 3d. and 6d. a stone for potatoes they might grow themselves, 40507.

COOKING—LAUNDRY.

Girls would not attend cooking and laundry classes, 40497-8.

LACE.

No lace school had ever been started in Killybeg; a little lace made locally; number of visitors to Killybeg specially favourable to this industry, 40499-500.

CRABBERIES.

No crabberies in neighbourhood or village dairies; effect of creamery was to make people loiter about when they came with milk; alleged deterioration of calves was farmers' own fault, as they knew separated milk was not proper food, 40501-2.

FISHING.

Ten boats in Killybeg; 8 in Crummacorbally; they were ordinary canoes, three men in each, 40469.—Technical instruction in curing fish needed, 40468.—Mackerel cured in Norway and other countries fetched higher price than that from Ireland, as methods of curing were more up-to-date, 40470-1.—Witness thought the mackerel caught at Killybeg was sold straight to dealers who cured it and exported to America; sometimes fishermen cured them himself, 40473-5.

SUGGESTIONS FOR INDUSTRIES.

Local industries usually started on wrong principle; must be on commercial not philanthropic principle; bound to fail if people starting them had no business training, or interest in enterprise to make it pay; no use in Government subsidising such as

CLANCY, REV. JAMES—continued.

enterprise, 40510, 40512.—If conditions of neighbourhood pointed to likelihood of success of industry Government might start it on assumption that once started it would pay its way, 40512.—Witness knew of no industry started on philanthropic grounds that had permanently succeeded, 40513, 40516-7.—He had heard of success of Farford trends, but that was quite an exception, 40514-5.

DALY, MR. T. K.

See pp. 200-1.

AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION.

System of lectures and demonstration plots no good; people retained nothing that they heard in lectures; in each parish there should be one central school to teach agriculture, where boys of Sixth Standard, whose parents could no longer keep them at school, should be taught, 40523, 40528.—Funds at present devoted to other objects should be given to that school, 40524, 40527.—It should not be joined on to common school, 40525.—Suggested system of plots attached to school not good, as teachers knew nothing of agriculture, and would take long to train, 40526.

DIRECT LABOUR SCHEMES FOR REPAIR OF ROADS.

Direct labour schemes not carried out properly by County Council; large and small farmers' sons employed instead of labourers, 40529, 40543, 40548.—Large farmers' sons employed to exclusive of men of greater need, 40530.—Employment should be given to small holders under 45 valuation by lottery, each getting a mile section of road, 40529, 40534-5, 40539-40.—It could be done on contract, those not carrying out contract to be deterred from lottery the ensuing year, 40530, 40532.—Labourers were at present under County Council, 40531.—Section need not be limited to one mile; State should not interfere, 40531.—Remuneration would be fixed by County Surveyor; prices adopted at present were those of last three years of Grand Jury, 40535.—Old prices could be retained, 40541.—Work now done by County Council, 40542.—It was mostly hired contract labour, 40544, 40546.—Special staff of overseers employed, 40545.—Contract labour gave employment to small holders; witness's system better; people would be their own contractors, and there would be no influence to get bills, 40548.—County Council had departed from old contract system of Grand Jury for last two years on representations being made to them to give employment, 40551-5.

IMPROVEMENT OF BAR AT SEARIFF.

Channel through bar at Seariff Pier needed improvement, 40555.—Seariff was the principal fishing station on west coast of Clare, 1½ miles south of Quilly, 40556-7, 40561.—Dangerous rock at entrance, 40557.—Board of Works Inspector recently examined it; nothing done yet; it would not be expensive to remove rock, 40558-9.—Waves struck it on northern side; if reced of wave struck boat it would sink it, 40560.

HALPIN, REV. J.

See pp. 232-3.

NORTH-EAST CLARE.

Witness was parish priest of Seariff, 40562.—He had written a book on temperance, 40566.—Seariff parish was to a great extent representative of North-East Clare; it was desirable that work of Congested Districts Board should be extended to Seariff and neighboring parishes; the northern part of North-East Clare was mountainous, principally reclaimed mountain, and some of the townlands were certainly congested, even according to the legal definition; some of the holdings could scarcely support the people in comfort, even without rent or instalments, 40565.

GURRINERA PARISH—VALUATION, POPULATION.

Gurrinera, a parish in Union of Seariff, in electoral division of Clonsilla, and four or five miles from Seariff, had an average valuation of about 12s.

HALPIN, REV. J.—continued.

per head, 40563-5, 40572.—There were eighteen families, and the holdings were chiefly mountainous, the mountain land being used for pasture, and generally included in the separate holdings, though perhaps in some instances it was held in common, 40563-5.—The eighteen families averaged about six members each, 40571.—Gurrinera was a type of Clonsilla division generally and the country beyond, 40568.

MIGRATION.

Migration either to a neighbouring townland or some other part of Ireland would be a remedy for congestion in this district, 40575-7.—The people would not be unwilling to migrate, 40577-8.

PURCHASE OF HOLDINGS AND RESULTS.

Purchase of the land by tenants and reinstatement of evicted tenants were desirable; the people seemed incapable of attending to anything but the land question till it was settled, 40582.—More than half the parish of Seariff had been already bought by tenants, some of it under the Act of 1935, and some under the Ashbourne Act, 40581-3, 40583-4.—The whole Fitzgerald property bordering on Seariff had lately been purchased within the Ashbourne Act at about seventeen years' purchase, the rents being first term rents, 40585-7.—About twelve or fifteen years ago another property in the townland of Powerscower was purchased at fourteen years' purchase under Ashbourne Act, 40587-8.—Since the Act of 1935 the prices in many cases had been about 21, 22, and 23 years' purchase, 40589.—Mr. Stacpool's land was sold at 21 or 23 years' purchase; there were first and second term rents on that, 40590-2.—Purchase of Mr. Moreland's estate was not yet complete, the price was 30½ and 32½ years' purchase, 40594.—In some of these cases the entire estate was sold, 40595.—Mr. Stacpool was not resident in Seariff Parish, but in the case of Mr. Moreland, whose property was at Tomgranny, the demesne had been retained; it was fairly large, 40595-9.—The prices quoted were typical of those in Clare generally, 40598.—Purchase was followed by immediate improvement in holdings and houses; two holders had received prices under a county scheme for the manner in which their holdings were kept, 40599-602.—The purchases resulted in a reduction of rent amounting to between 5s. and 6s. in the pound, and from that to 7s. or 8s. in the pound, 40603, 40605.—The better class of holdings had thirty or forty acres, 40604.—One which Dr. O'Donnell had seen and admired was about twenty acres, and the reduction would be about 23 to 25, 40600, 40604.—The principal purchase took place about twelve or fourteen years ago, and there had been a decided reduction in the twenties, 40605.—Under Ashbourne Act there were many advantages to tenants, 40607.—Emigration had been affected by purchase only to a small extent, 40608, 40620.—Reductions effected in the last twenty-five years, first reductions in rent and afterwards reductions of payment by the purchase, had not had so good a financial result as might have been expected, though occupiers who had purchased their holdings took a greater interest in them and were more thrifty than formerly, and the appearance of the houses and the system of agriculture had improved since purchase, 40608-9, 40610-1.—The reduction of rent took place about twelve years ago, 40623.—Payments for rent, etc., in 1907 were not half what they were before 1881, but individuals had no more money in the bank now than then; among the causes of this was the fall in prices of cattle and farm produce, 40610-7, 40621-34.—Some of the purchasers now put more money into their holdings than formerly, 40621.—The improvements did not necessarily involve great expenditure of money, as the farmers' families did the work; farmers lived in a better style than formerly, 40625, 40642.

CLIMATIC CHANGE.

Land was less productive than formerly, a change in climate being probably responsible; May winds were very severe in 1907; for the last few years summer months had been colder, and the summer rainfall greater, than in the past; both wheat and cattle were formerly produced where now there was no attempt to produce them, 40642-3.

HALPIN, Rev. J.—*continued*.

INDUSTRIES.

Industries were needed, as the settlement of the land question could not afford a complete solution of the problem of congestion; Scariff had excellent water-power, a beautiful river, and canal communication with Limerick and Dublin; Scariff formerly had many industries; Lewis's Topographical Dictionary, printed in 1827, mentioned woollen, flour, and oil mills, an iron furnace and a glass factory, as formerly existing in this locality; beds were also manufactured; witnesses suggested that the union with Great Britain was responsible for the disappearance of these industries, 40643-4.

GLASS MANUFACTURE POSSIBLE.

The material for making glass, a fine class of light sand, with silica, was found in the neighbourhood; a white sand found in the district, on the shores of Lough Gremoney, had been exhibited among Irish minerals at South Kensington and at Cork Exhibition, and other places, and witness had received inquiries from manufacturers in Great Britain with a view to purchase for filtration, cement and glass; an expert had stated the sand would be suitable for manufacture of rough glass, but the quantity of iron in the sand would render the manufacture of fine glass costly, 40640-50.

BUILDING STONE.

A new class of building stone, green, was also found in this district, 40649-50.

RE-AFForestation.

Woodlands might be planted on the mountains and waste ground, and give immediate employment, 40651.—Monks at Mount Mellerey had made successful and profitable plantations in Knockmaddown Mountains, near Mount Mellerey, 40652.—The planting was begun about twenty years ago; the first plantings resulted about £36 an acre, 40653, 40660-2.—A branch of this Order of Monks had entered into possession of a broken-down mansion and a large neglected demesne at Roscrea, not far from Scariff, and they reclaimed the land, and set up mills with modern machinery; they set an example to agriculturists and other workers in the vicinity; the Monks of this Order were accused of being over-enthusiastically minded; they rose at two in the morning, and worked hard, combining labour and prayer, 40655-9.—A Danish expert about twenty years ago declared that if Ireland were properly re-afforested the population might rise from five to twenty-five millions, 40660-3.—Professor Blinn had stated that no country on the world had a climate so well suited to planting as Ireland, and that Ireland was the least afforested country in the world, 40663.—In some places in France, where the municipality owned the property the Government managed re-afforestation, and the municipality got the profits, so that rates were unnecessary; this arrangement would be a great advantage to Scariff, 40666.—The Government would not lose on such an arrangement, 40669.—A grant of public money was not wanted, 40670.

HOGAN, Mr. PATRICK J.

See pp. 206-10.

LAND PURCHASE IN CLARE.

Witness represented Clare County Council, and was on County Committee of Clare, 40671, 40721.—Land purchase in Clare was not more extensive because during the past four years the price of land had been too high, 40673.—Excluding Scariff Parish not more than two or three sales had taken place in Scariff Union under Act of 1903, 40674.—Negotiations had been opened between landlord and tenants, and had broken down; witness had been a tenant on estate of Francis North, who nine years ago negotiated for sale of the estate at fifteen years' purchase; the estate was purchased at fifteen years, including large arrears; the rents were first term judicial rents under Ashbourne Act; Land Commission's inspector recommended twelve years' purchase on a portion of the estate, and landlord accepted the twelve years; four years later, and two years before

HOGAN, Mr. PATRICK J.—*continued*.

Act of 1903, Sir Robert Gardner, of Dublin, the landlord of an estate running parallel to North's, and equal to it in every way, offered to sell for eighteen years' purchase, but tenants refused; after Act of 1903 this latter estate was offered at twenty-five years' purchase of the same first term rents, and negotiations again fell through, 40675-8.—There was no residence on the Gardner Estate, 40679.—Since 1903 Lady Fitzgerald's estate had been offered for sale at twenty-three years' purchase of second term rents and a lower point on first term rents; tenants offered about 2½ years' purchase on second term rents; the landlord having refused, tenants went into court, and got £1. 6d. in the pound on an average; there were only a couple of second term tenants on the estate, 40680-3.—The cause of high prices in Clare was the high rent under which land was let, 40684.—This was due to short leases which prevailed before the Act of 1881; short leases were now no longer given, 40685, 40687-8.—The landlords were poor, and would buy an estate, mortgage it, and buy another; they gave short leases, and so secured a high rent, 40685, 40689.—Tenants were now judicial tenants, 40690.—On an estate which was typical of many the rent had been reduced by 75 per cent., and was still dear, as the land was mountain, 40690.—When reductions were made they were not made with reference to the real value of the land, but with reference to its former rent; in the 'lightest two farms of equal value had 30 per cent. difference in the judicial rents, 40691.—In some cases the rents would be under the valuation, but in Clare valuation was no criterion of value of land, because when Clare was valued much land was under tillage which had since gone out of cultivation, 40692.—In view of the high rents in Clare it was better for tenants to go to Land Courts than buy at present prices; in an estate in Clare that was very much broken up tenants had obtained a better reduction than they would have had under the purchase, 40693-4.

ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS.

Holdings under 26 valuation in Scariff Union numbered 1,846, out of a total of about 7,060 holdings, with a population of 10,043; in this Union only about 400 acres of green land were available for enlargements, 40696-700.—In other parts of Clare there was plenty of land, 40701.—Holders in Scariff Union were not earning a labourer's hire; they had been taught to cultivate their land, but the land was wet, and needed every effort to prevent it lapsing into a wild state, 40701-2.

CLIMATIC CHANGES.

Seasons were better at the time Clare was valued, and crops could then be sown in December which now could not be sown till April; much land had now gone out of cultivation which then was under tillage, 40692, 40703.—Potato blight was unknown before 1845 or 1846, 40704-6.—Cultivation of wheat on the former scale was now impossible owing to the cold and damp, 40707.—Reafforestation and drainage would improve climate and soil, 40708.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage of Scariff was reported on in 1846 by a Vicarage Commission, which recommended the expenditure of £40,000 on draining Scariff river and tributaries; owners opposed attempts at drainage; some of the occupiers favoured the scheme, but thought it impossible to execute without a free grant from Government, 40709.—The sides of the river were limestone rock, which needed blasting, at great expense; at present the land was a desert of water; lands were attacked by tubercular disease, and people in the many houses along the river by consumption, 40710.—Witness gave evidence before Drainage Commission, which had just reported, and he recommended drainage of Scariff River, each occupier paying in proportion to benefit derived; 350 acres in Tulla and Kiltanna could be reclaimed for 4s. an acre, but under the present law no local authority could effect this, 40713-5.—The land belonged to different occupiers, 40714.—When this land went derelict the owner was a minor, and the estate in hands of a mortgage; the owner now had a smaller estate; he would not help, 40716-7.

HOGAN, Mr. PATRICK J.—continued.

TRANSIT.

Transit was bad; Scariff Union was fifty miles from a railway; before the Local Government Act Mr. Gerald Halford offered £26,500 to Grand Jury of Clare for a light railway through East Clare, but it was thought the tax on the rates would be too great, 40717-8, 40722.—The railway was to run from Ennis to Scariff, through Tulla, 40723-3, 40729-30.—The cost would be nearly double the £26,500; it would be better to have a broad line; a motor service by a line of Lord Pierce's and another along the same route had also been hoped for, but the district could not fulfil the condition about keeping roads in repair, 40724-7.—Mangels, which did well in Scariff, could not be disposed of for less than transit, 40718-20.

AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES IN CLARE.

An agricultural scheme existed in Clare; much good had been effected by lectures and by cottages and farm prices, 40733, 40736, 40742.—Poultry and butter-making lectures would be eventually dispensed with, 40738.—A suitable agricultural instructor was employed; he had experimental plots; neighbouring farmers had plots equal to, and better managed than, the experimental ones, 40734-6.—Small farmers had benefited by the agricultural schemes, but with better transit better prices would be obtained for produce, 40738-9.—Spraying had been introduced into Clare by Father Clancy fifteen years before, and was done two or three times a year, 40741.—Witness had been a member of Board of Agriculture; the County Committee, the Council and Board advised, and the Department did as it liked, 40743-4.—Committee could only fix minor details, 40745.—Schemes fell through unless Department's wishes were followed, 40747.—Committee could refuse to subscribe, but this would involve the stopping of schemes already commenced, and cause injustice, 40748, 40752, 40754.—Particular schemes such as the poultry scheme could, of course, be dropped, while others were continued, 40749-50.—Complete abandonment of a scheme meant loss of the rate in aid, 40752.—There had been disagreement between Committee and Department about the poultry scheme, and Department themselves paid for instructors, 40751.—Control by some central department was quite necessary, and Department of Agriculture had to exercise control, as it contributed more than half funds for the schemes, 40755-6.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Inisclarra North and South, Dromin and Mountshannon were scheduled under Congested Districts Board, but got no aid from it; their requirements had been brought before Board's officials, without result; these places were transferred to County Clare, for administrative purposes, under Local Government Act; when scheduled they were in County Galway, 40756-8, 40760.

O'CONNOR, Mr. WILLIAM.

See pp. 211-2.

POSITION OF WITNESS.

Witness resided at Feakle, and was Chairman of Scariff Rural District Council; he had a farm of thirty acres, 40761-2.

CONGESTION IN SCARIFF.

Congestion existed in Scariff Union, which contained 900 to 1,000 holdings, valued at and under £10, 40762-3, 40766-7.—Total number of holdings in the union was about 1,520, 40765.—There were two or three very congested townlands near Feakle; fifteen families lived there on a valuation of £70; the poorest families were the largest, 40809.—Land in these townlands was sometimes held in nine or ten different places; it was in rundale and held in common; in one case seven people had eight acres of meadow land in common, four of them having one-half one year, and the other three the other half; the next year they changed about, 40809-10.

O'CONNOR, Mr. WILLIAM.—continued.

ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS.

About 1,200 acres of growing land was available for enlargement; some of this was mountain, 40770, 40776.—It was mostly in landlords' hands, 40785.—A property of 1,084 acres near Killaloe had a valuation of £238 10s., 40776.—General Gore had 120 acres of arable land valued at £100 10s., Colonel O'Callaghan 114 acres of arable land valued at £92 10s.; valuation was the best guide to value of land in this district; assuage was no guide, 40771-2.

DRAINAGE.

The river between Scariff and Tulla did much damage by flood, 40776-7, 40783.—Part of the land flooded had been sold by landlord to tenants, 40778.—Many tenants would be unable to bear additions to their instalments in proportion to the advantage to them of a great drainage scheme, 40779-81.—They would find it easier to pay instalments plus drainage if drainage were effected than to pay their original instalments without drainage, 40783.—Drainage would mean cutting away the rocky bed of the river above Scariff; there was a waterfall; the river needed to be thoroughly cleaned as far back as the mountains, 40785-6.—The rock extended about half a mile continuously, then the river became deep and further up there was rock again, 40790.

INDUSTRIES.

Industries were confined to a little milling, flour and meal, in Killaloe, 40791.—Wool was exported from Scariff and Feakle to England, 40794.—A woollen industry might be made self-supporting, 40796-7.—It would be well to consult an expert on prospects of a woollen industry, 40798-9.—There was water power available, 40798.

BAD TRANSPORT FACILITIES.

Communication between Scariff and Killaloe was by boat, and too dear for anything but provisions, 40800-1.—No regular sailing was possible, owing to floods, which often caused a week's delay between Scariff and Killaloe or Limerick; a canal connected with the Dublin canal ran from Killaloe to Limerick; quantities of butter supplied by Feakle to Limerick had to be sent by car to avoid delays, 40802-3.—No creameries existed in Scariff Rural District, though every holder had cows; schemes for starting creameries fell through, 40804-5.—Everything was hampered by transit difficulties, 40801.

COLLINS, Mr. MICHAEL.

See pp. 212-3.

FARM OF WITNESS.

Witness resided at O'Callaghan's Mills, and represented Tulla Board of Guardians; he held between sixty and seventy acres, some in Scariff Union, some in Tulla, six miles apart; he had 55 acres in Tulla, with valuation of £70; he had an abatement and hoped to get a further one; he settled about four years ago, 40811-3.

CONGESTION IN TULLA UNION.

Valuation of Tulla Union was £33,555, population was 9,824; there were 51 outdoor relief cases, comprising 111 persons; average weekly cost of relief, £10; there were many small holdings in lower end of Tulla Union, in Broadford, in south-east of the Union; at Killurra, which had much mountain land attached, there were at present six persons sharing a holding valued at £5; this holding was not held in common, but each person had his own "divide" or tenancy, 40815-7.—There was a large tract on Killurra mountain which would be useful to these people, 40818.—The six holders earned their living by labouring, 40820, 40824.—They could go into court if they wished, 40822-3.—These facts showed the eastern part of Tulla was congested, 40825-6.—Large grass farms in Tulla Union, held partly by the landlord, partly by grazing tenants, might be used for enlargement of holdings, 40827-30.—As a rule, owners resided on them, 40831.

COLLINS, Mr. MICHAEL—continued.

TESTIMONY ON MR. PHILIPS' ESTATE.

One owner, Mr. Phelps, had recently sold his holding to his tenants, who would probably keep all the bog, which Mr. Phelps had formerly let to all small holders in the neighbourhood. 40331-3.—This bog was really only capable of supplying all the tenants on this one estate, 40335, 40340, 40342.—There was another large bog up in the mountains which was difficult of access, but should be made available to tenants on other estates, 40332, 40340, 40347.—Bogs were generally divided among tenants; a particular farmer would sometimes try to obtain the whole bog on an estate, but this was not allowed, 40346.

DELAHUNTY, Mr. TIMOTHY.

See p. 213.

RUNDLE TENANTS IN KILBARRON, SCARIFF UNION.

Witness was a farmer having about nine acres of land and residing at Kilbarron, Feale, in Scariff Union, 40343.—The Kilbarron property contained 428 acres; there were fourteen tenants with a valuation of £98 10s.; a grass land on the property was valued at £96 8s. and was held by a grazier, 40345-52.—Some of the fourteen tenants had five to ten acres; some men with five acres had thirteen divisions on their land, which was in rundale; seven persons joined in a meadow of eight acres and had different parts in alternate years, 40352-6.—The agent had refused to sell through Estates Commissioners and demanded twenty-four years' purchase for the rundale, 40354-6.—If sold through Estates Commissioners the fourteen holdings could have been re-divided and enlarged by additions from the meadow land; tenants would have accepted Estates Commissioners' decision regarding re-division, 40357-9, 40360.—These rundale tenants had been in court, 40360.

MALONE, Mr. JOHN.

See pp. 213-5.

OCCUPATION OF WITNESS.

Witness resided at Bedyke; he had been engaged in cattle-dealing, and was a good while in Scotland as an assistant salesman, where he had opportunity of studying breeds of cattle, 40370-3.—He was a native of Ireland, and had been there fifteen years, 40374-5.

CATTLE BREEDING ON IRISH MOUNTAINS.

Cattle best suited to mountainous parts of Ireland were the long-horned West Highland cattle, 40376-7, 40380.—Witness had brought forty of these cattle into Ireland, after which the Veterinary Department refused to admit any more for fear of disease; there was no disease in Scotland at that time; those witnesses brought over did remarkably well, 40379-9, 40380-3.—The market for these cattle comprised the Highlands, the Grampians, and neighbourhood of Stirling and Perth, 40383.—These cattle were sold for other purposes besides ornament, 40381-2.—They were poor milkers, but were very hardy, and could live on the mountains with no feeding but grass, except when snow was lying, 40383-5, 40381, 40382.—They were sold for fattening, and would fetch up to thirty pounds when fat, 40386-9.—Five, sold by witness at £3 10s. each, fetched £13 15s. each after eighteen months feeding, 40392.—These cattle were now admitted to Ireland on certain conditions, and during last two years a small number had been brought in, 40396.—Board of Agriculture would probably not object to their introduction, which would only be for breeding purposes, 40399-900.—During the thirty years witness had been concerned in cattle-dealing the price of stores had declined with that of beef, 40392-5, 40404.—In June 1907 stores were a 25s. dear, 40413.—Well-bred cattle sold in Co. Clare were about 5s. cheaper than thirty years ago, 40395-9.—Beef at one time was sold in Scotland at 24 10s. a cwt., 40396-7.—Statistics which showed a rise in price of beef since 1832, as compared with 1901-5, were based on the best prices, 40398-9.—Witness would not

MALONE, Mr. JOHN—continued.

agree with statement that cattle as compared with cereals were much more valuable in 1905 than in 1832; his memory went back to about 1876 when American beef was unknown, 40401-1.—Fattening cattle in Scotland was done entirely by stall-feeding, 40402-2.—These cattle fetched higher prices than cattle from elsewhere, 40404-5.—The stall-feeding method was not practised much in Ireland, probably from ignorance, and because Ireland had better grass land for fattening than Scotland, 40393, 40395, 40391.—Raising stores was also practised in Ireland, 40392.—Stall-feeding would produce measure, 40393.—Where stall-feeding was practised in Ireland in past, 40394.—Fat beasts sent from Ireland to England lost 10s. to £1 in value on the journey, 40395-7.—Killing cattle before despatch to England would prevent this loss, but was little practised, 40397-9.

SHEEP-RAISING.

Sheep suitable for the mountains were black-faced horned sheep and Cheviots; on mountains between Scariff and Limerick only one man kept Scotch sheep, 40394.—Many ewes and lambs were imported from Scotland that could be as easily reared on these mountains which at present were waste, 40391-3, 40395, 40394, 40391.—5,500 lambs were imported to Derry, 40391, 40394.—The ewes were put on the good lands, a horse man allowed to ram with them, and the lambs sold fat; they paid well, 40395, 40393-4.—The lambing season would be better in Ireland than Scotland if similar methods were used; the Irish mountains were more fertile for sheep, 40395.—Fattening of lambs for the butcher was increasing; the small Scotch sheep were better suited than Irish sheep, 40399.—Wool of black-faced sheep was not worn, but useful for the pasture, 40392.—Rams should be imported for breeding, 40394.—Mountains grazing in Scotland was rendered valuable by being utilised for sheep, 40395.—Boards of Agriculture and Congested Districts should introduce sheep for breeding, 40394-8, 40392.—Galway and North of Ireland men understood sheep better than Clare men did, 40393.—Irish farmers generally needed instruction in sheep-breeding from Congested Districts Board, 40395-8.

MACNAMARA, Mr. MICHAEL.

See p. 216.

POSITION OF WITNESS.

Witness lived at Clonmogh, Scariff, with his brother, who was a small farmer; witness represented Electoral Division of Immaculate South, in Scariff Union, as a Rural District Councillor, 40396.

TENANTS DEPRIVED OF GRAZING LAND.

Immaculate South consisted of eleven holdings, valued at from £50 to £25, and was on Mr. James Wakeley's estate, Mountmungan, which was now offered for sale to tenants; some tenants had agreed to twenty-two years' purchase of second term rents, 40395-7.—The division contained, within the township of Clonmogh, a grazing farm of about seventy acres, valued at £25 5s., which, in spring of 1903, was given by landlord to a man called Bugler; for forty years previously the farm was devoted to grass, on which the tenants put their yearlings from May to November, making a monthly payment, and buying the hay for fodder in winter; the grass farm consisted of two sections, one-fourth of it being above the main road, 40392.

A RIGHT OF WAY NEEDED.

Three families who lived behind this section had no access to the road, except through a river, which was often in flood for weeks; about sixteen years previous to 1907 the landlord gave these three tenants a road through the grass farm, which said Bugler had now closed to them; six tenants refused to sign agreements until the tenant of this grass farm was removed, and the land used to enlarge the other holdings, which would then be common; compulsion was needed to secure this division of the grass land; the district should be scheduled as congested, 40398-72, 40397-6, 40391-2.—

MacNAMARA, Mr. MICHAEL—continued.

The spirit of the Act of 1903 demanded the distribution of this land among small holders, 40979-80.—The right of way through the farm had not been established; it had not existed twenty years, 40973.—The grass farm was two miles from the demesne, 40976.—Witness's brother was one of the three tenants out off from the road, 40984.

KEANE, Mr. PATRICK.

See pp. 216-7.

MOUNTSHANNON ELECTORAL DIVISION.

Witness resided at Clonsilla, Mountshannon, and represented Mountshannon Electoral Division, where he had a farm of 36½ acres, with rent of 47 on second judicial term, and valuation of 88 10s., 40986-7.

CONGESTION IN MOUNTSHANNON.

Mountshannon Division was already scheduled as congested; it consisted of five townlands, four being on estate of John P. George; there were fifty tenants in this district, thirty of whom occupied holdings under 25 valuation; more than forty holdings were under 10 valuation; holdings generally were small and poor, consisting of patches of reclaimed mountain, plus a few acres of healthy mountain; occupiers bought hay, and put their cattle to graze by the month; the children emigrated as they grew up; holdings needed additions of arable and meadow land; some of the people would willingly migrate; the district contained untenanted or demesne land, and 1,000 or 1,100 acres of mountain land in hands of landlords, which might be acquired for relief of congestion, 40988.—Tenants paid an additional rent for grazing on the mountain land; the terms of agreement for purchase of holdings would give tenants the right to grazing on the mountain, 40990-3, 41001.—The mountain grazing alone would not make the holdings economic, 40994.—The untenanted demesne land was partly by the lake, where it was let for grazing; another portion was let for mowdew; part was let to tenants on an outside estate, 40997-3, &c.

FLOODS.

A river flowing into Lough Derg, east of Mountshannon, caused waste to holdings, and should be cleared and banked, 40998-9.

ROADS.

Two old Board of Works' roads through the district would be useful if repaired; ten families lived either side one of these roads, which also led to a bog that supplied turf to Mountshannon, 40999.

PURCHASE OF HOLDINGS.

Negotiations for sale of the estate were proceeding, 40985.—Tenants had been offered twenty-two years' purchase on second judicial rents, and, witness thought, eighteen on non-judicial; there were not many first judicial rents; a majority of tenants had refused to sign agreements, 41000.—Owner had refused to sell to Estates Commissioners; if the Commissioners bought direct the grass would be available for enlargement of holdings, 41002-3, 41006-7.—Congested Districts Board had declined to interfere, as estate had not been offered to them, 41003-5.

CONGESTION IN INISHCALTERRA NORTH AND INISHCALTERRA SOUTH.

Inishcaltarra North and Inishcaltarra South should be treated as congested; in Inishcaltarra North the same conditions prevailed as in Mountshannon; on the Herbert Estate, in Inishcaltarra North, there were about fifty tenants, twenty-eight being under 10 valuation, and eighteen under 25; the small tenants were mostly in the townland of Selmanee; they bought inferior hay, and paid 11 extra for grazing cattle on Bohatch Mountain, a mile away, 41007-8.—The mountain land held at present by the landlord should be bought by Congested Districts Board or Estates Commissioners and striped, 41008.—Emigration was common on the Herbert Estate; migration would probably be necessary if all holdings were to

KEANE, Mr. PATRICK—continued.

be made economic, 41008.—Some holders would be willing to migrate to a distance, 41011-3.

PARISH COMMITTEES.

There was no Parish Committee in any Mountshannon district, 41009-10.

DRISCOLL, Mr. JAMES.

See pp. 217-8.

CONGESTION IN BALLYMACDONNELL TOWNSHIP, TULLA UNION.

Witness resided at Devenem, Broadford, 41016.

In township of Ballymacdonnell, in Kildaran Electoral Division, Tulla Union, three partners held in common fifteen acres of mountain grazing, valued at 26 13s.; they paid rent in common, 41016-8, 41021.—They had been there before witness could remember, 41013.—They had small holdings besides this common land, 41021.—A number of other small occupiers held small grazings in common, apart from their individual holdings; all were under 25 valuation, 41022-3.—In the same division about 1,200 acres of grass land, in six holdings, were let on the eleven months' system, 41023-30.—This grass land should be purchased and divided among the small holders who needed it, and would be willing to pay an equitable price for enlargement, 41031-3.—This grass land would suffice to enlarge the worst cases of small holdings, 41034.

MAGUIRE, Rev. J. J.

See pp. 218-9.

MIGRATION FROM CLARE.

Migration, even into other counties and provinces, would be welcomed by the people on the mountain if good land were provided; witness knew this from twenty-eight years' experience in six counties; between Ennis and Scariff there was much congestion, and also on another part of the mountain-side; the nature of the land made any radical improvement in the holdings impossible; the water could not flow through the mountain, 41036-7.—There should be no difficulty from the people in districts to which migrants were sent, because the natives of those districts were already fully supplied with land, and did not need, and should not be allowed more; there ought to be a legal limit to the amount of land in one man's hands; nine-tenths of the population were starving, while one-tenth had too much, 41038.—A hundred acres of good land should be the limit, and average farmer could work forty or fifty acres satisfactorily; the benefit resulting from division of the land among the people was the first matter needing attention, and had been overlooked, 41040-1.—Migrations should be preceded by enlargements of small holdings in localities to which persons were migrated, 41042.

PURCHASE OF HOLDINGS IN TOMRAGHNEY.

Landlords and tenants in Tomraghney had shown a disposition to come to terms in regard to purchase by tenants of their holdings; this district contained little land for distribution, 41043.

DRAINAGE.

Drainage would greatly benefit farmers, and they would be willing to pay interest; but for the proposed expenditure of 247,000 for the Scariff drainage a free grant from Government would be expected; the Arterial Drainage Commissioner's report would probably induce Government to assist the various localities; the drainage question had been pressing for over forty years; witness had corresponded with Secretary of Canal Commission in London on the project of running a canal along the Scariff River to Tulla; this canal would serve for communication as well as drainage, 41042.

SUGGESTIONS FOR INDUSTRIES AT TOMRAGHNEY.

Stones had formerly been worked in Tomraghney village, 41042.—A woollen factory could be started if capital and teaching were provided; four or five hundred persons could thus be given work; Clare and

MAGUIRE, Rev. J. J.—continued.

Galway were two of the best Irish counties for wool; the Tomragree wool was being shipped away, but could all be manufactured at home, and a great local demand might be created for a Tomragree system or tweed, as had been done in Donegal for Donegal tweeds; it was expected that, on application to Congested Districts Board, an expert would be sent to investigate the question of a woollen industry, and assistance for machinery and teaching given; the water-power of the Scariff, which had formerly been utilized for a flour mill, could be employed to generate electricity, and transmitted to a woollen factory at Tomragree, 41042.—An embroidery class had been lately started by Father Halpin, and employed fifty to seventy girls, who were beginning to earn money, 41042.—There was an exhibition at Dublin from this centre, 41043.

M'AULIFFE, Mr. JOHN.

See p. 252.

WATER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SCARIFF, KILLALOE, AND DUBLIN.

Witness was Grand Canal agent at Scariff, 41044.—Passage of the canal between Scariff and Killaloe was rendered difficult by floods which occurred in January, February, and December, and sometimes in March; in these months floods were also a difficulty, 41044-7.—In other months transit was fairly certain, 41047-9.—For about three-quarters of a mile before the quay the river was zig-zag, with a narrow gap, rendering little steamers powerless against it, 41049-50.—Steamers came within a few hundred yards of the town, 41051.—Three boats ran every week, when fog, etc., permitted, 41052.—Fright per cwt. to Killaloe would be about 6d. or 8d. under three cwt.; over three cwt. it was cheaper, 41053-4.—Between Scariff and Killaloe boats called at O'Brien's Bridge, 41055.—There was a service from Scariff to Dublin; this was not affected by floods on the canal, but down to the lake vessels were held by storms, so that the town was often kept short of food supply, 41056.—A plan had once been made for a new cutting between Scariff and the lake, to avoid the old stream; the plan had once been with the Board of Works, 41059.—The canal would need a lock; there was an immense current of water from the upper country, which was held up in two large basins, one six, the other nine miles from Scariff, 41059.

RYAN, Mr. DANIEL.

See pp. 218-22.

CONGESTION AND GRASS LAND IN BROADFORD.

Witness resided at Kilsally, Broadford, 41060.—He was a farmer, with about forty-six Irish acres; rent £22, valuation £22 5s., in Lanesboro' No. 2 Rural District; in this district there was one property of 250 acres of grass land, and another property of 25 acres, both let on eleven months system; round these properties thirty families had holdings with valuation of £5 to £9; an average family had six members; the holdings were very poor on the mountain; in some years there was a small crop, in others none; most of the grass land was formerly in meadow, and the landlord sold hay to tenants at a high price; now hay had to be bought elsewhere at a higher price, and the tenants were obliged to sell their cattle before they were ready, 41062.—Grassland did not give grazing to small holders' cattle, but bought cattle for themselves at fairs; sometimes graziers bought calves from small holders rear, 41063-4.—One of the graziers was a cattle dealer, and jobbed in cattle, 41065.—If the grass land were divided among small holders they could live fairly well, 41064, 41065.

STONE QUARRY.

A stone quarry was held by some of the tenants, but they could not work it properly; if properly worked it would give much employment, 41066.

MILL.

An old mill, once worked by water-power, had been idle thirty-five years; the weir was throwing back water and damaging the land, 41069.

O'CONNOR DON, The.

See pp. 221-54.

LANDLORDS BUYING CROPS AND SELLING DEAR AMONG;
WITNESS'S EXPERIENCE.

A property was bought in Landed Estates Court about 1853-4; price paid, with stamp duty, costs, etc., £10,000; it was sold through Estates Commissioners under Act of 1853 for £5,800, including bonus, within a month of Act coming into force; large sums had been spent in interval on improvements; purchaser paid costs in ordinary sales; under Act of 1852 vendor paid them, 41071-3, 41081-2, 41084.—It was bought when prices were high, and was bringing in £650 a year, of which £200 was paid out as head rent; rents were reduced by 30 per cent; reduction fell on the £400; net receipts had fallen to £200, 41076, 41083.—Head landlord's charges remained unaffected by Act of 1851; fall in rent affected sub-landlord's interest only, although value of property depreciated, head landlord's income remained the same, 41077-9.—The same happened all over Ireland when Glens were free-lane grants, 41080.—Within a year of purchase witness father sent out two farmers to value property, and reduced rents by 3s. in 2, 41082, 41095.—In 1853 or 1854 further reduction of 3s. in 4 given to tenants who signed fair rent agreements; all the tenants signed, but agent forgot to register agreements; large number of tenants went into court, and got further reductions, so they had really paid less rents, 41095.—Price of estate when bought was 22 years' purchase; price when sold was 19 years' purchase, including bonus, leaving head rent left out of account; costs, expenses, and charges about equal to bonus, 41095-97.—Drop in sale price due to reduction in rents, and in case of large amount of Irish estates, to fact that nominal owner had to bear reduction on whole, 41093.—Different agreements made with tenants on estate; it worked out at average of 30 years' purchase, 41094, 41096.—In most cases landlords bought land dear and sold cheap, 41097-9.

CRITERION OF DEFINITION OF CONGESTION—TOWNLAND
SUGGESTED AS THE UNIT.

Definition of congestion in 1891 Act did not coincide with poverty-stricken districts intended to be dealt with; good deal of fishing in some districts which was not included in poor law valuation, 41100.—A place was not congested if people had means of livelihood even if valuation were under the mark, 41101.—Board dealt with other sources of livelihood besides agriculture, and they should be considered, 41103-4, 41159.—Statutory definition took into account nothing but agriculture; there were districts scheduled which had other resources, and poor congested districts not scheduled, because these were rich and sparsely-populated areas in the same division; definition in 1905 Act of congested estates was also defective; it depended largely on amount of mountain or bog on an estate, not on poverty of inhabitants; Glenflesher division an example; great part not congested, yet whole was scheduled; Ossington Estate not congested according to Act, yet portions were very poor; many townlands quite well-to-do, yet came under definition of congested, because they had large amount of mountain or bog on them, 41138, 41139.—More discretion should be given, and the two definitions got into line; Board should act on any estate in congested area or portion of which was in congested area, 41139-41.—Requirements as to mountain and bog should be left out of definition of a congested estate whether estate were inside or outside congested area, 41141-4.—Area too large; better to restrict it to townland if congested divisions were to be adhered to at all, 41100, 41102, 41103, 41119, 41159.—Limit of valuation to be left to Board's discretion; 30s. limit did as rough and ready test; better to have inspection and confidential report to Board, 41190, 41199.—Townland a well-known unit in West of Ireland; most country people did not know where an electoral division was, 41221-3.—Board should be free, but not obliged, to bestow differential treatment on any townland outside the western province requiring it, 41224.—For dealings and such schemes townland or even electoral division would be too small an area, 41109.

O'CONOR DON, The.—continued.

FULL DISCRETION FOR CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.—
—Power to Schedule and Unschedule.

Board should not be limited to any district, at least throughout West of Ireland, but given a free hand, with discretion to deal with congestion where they thought necessary, 41106, 41115-7, 41118, 41156, 41421.—They knew the country, and would be hampered by set and dried definition, 41187.—Restrictions to Connaught would exclude Donegal and Kerry, which needed Board's assistance, 41107.—With regard to purchase of estates they could be restricted to Connaught, 41108.—Board need not deal necessarily with every poor district, only where they thought it advisable; operations at present very much in patches, 41110-12, 41187.—Easier for them to exclude particular districts if they had very large area, less chance of pressure being put on them to go to a particular spot, 41112, 41188.—It would mean giving them purchase powers over the whole country for enlargement purposes; they practically had that at present, only without power of dividing land amongst people in neighbourhood, 41113.—Giving free hand to Board would do away with many present difficulties; they would not be expected to exercise their power in respect of small scattered plots, 41114.—Increase of responsibility slight, 41186.—Board should have power to schedule and unschedule, 41130, 41159.—When their work was done in a district, say, for instance, on the Dillon Estate, that district should be unscheduled, 41150, 41162.—If district was out of the Board could not be bothered for grants, 41161.—Agricultural instruction could still continue in the district, though even that might cease eventually, 41163.—When district was sufficiently improved it could be handed over to Agricultural Department to deal with as an ordinary district, and excluded from Board's care, 41164-5.—Area of Dillon Estate fairly substantial, 41166.

SPECIAL GRANTS TO COUNTY COMMITTEES.

Special grants given by Department of Agriculture to County Committees in poor districts in Tyrone, Antrim, or Down for preferential treatment would cut up distributing body into too many units, waste a good deal of money, and not do much good; personal pressure would be put on members of the Committee; proposal for Estates Commissioners to exercise Board's functions in those districts was much what witness suggested, 41135-37.

WORK OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Department's work in poor districts not so successful as Board's, 41132, 41149.—Board should do Department's work if basis of districts was maintained, 41153, 41449.—Witness lived on border of congested district, and had seen considerable improvement where Board operated, but not much result from Department's work, 41154.—Bulls, sires, etc., might do good to poor men, but Department could not do small things as well as Board, 41155.—Not the same necessity for improvement in non-congested areas as a rule, only in certain portions, 41156.—Department's special supplementary scheme not yet in operation in Roscommon, 41157.—County schemes unsuitable for poor districts; Department's instruction was given by lecture, whereas Board went direct to poor men; Department's more for county at large, 41499.

PURCHASE OF LAND OUTSIDE CONGESTED AREA.

Purchase of land outside congested area should be left to Estates Commissioners' discretion; impossible to frame definition to suit every case; Commissioners should be given discretion as to less than 10 per cent., 41145, 41146.—Landlord could refuse to allow estate to be declared congested; no landlord would do so, 41147.—Feeling used to exist that landlord would get smaller price if estate were declared congested, but that was now dying out, 41149.—It was expressed by the House of Lords, who added the objectionable words, 41150-1.—Only four estates treated as congested since Act came into force; these words nullified intention of section, and should come out, 41152, 41153.—In witness's case Estates Commissioners insisted on consent being given, 41152.—Advantages and disadvantages of treating estate as congested had been considered, and the 10 per cent. found to be the only difference, 41153.

O'CONOR DON, The.—continued.

NATURE OF DISTRICT A FACTOR IN AFFECTING REMEDY.

Nature of district must be considered; remedy useful in one place impossible in another; hopeless to try and migrate seaboard population to inland grass lands; they would not go, and would not know how to use land if they did, 41169.

REMEDIES FOR CONGESTION.—SOUTH-WEST GALWAY.

Maritime districts in South-West Galway the worst in Ireland; earning power of population should be increased; people industrious, and did not complain so long as potato crop was good; failure of crop should be avoided by interchange of seed, provision of facilities for and instruction in spraying; teaching people to use land to best advantage; hopeless to expect improvement from migration; existing industries, such as turf and fishing, should be encouraged, and people rendered as little dependent on potato crop as possible, 41169, 41417.—Where estates were bought land should be striped, and roads made to enable tenants to go more inland; land on seaboard now used, because there were no facilities for getting manure inland, 41169.—Where there were facilities people had gone inland; there was room there for reclamation; no limestone, but as good land as on seaboard, if they could get seaweed there for manure, 41170-3.—Land along shore had probably gone out of cultivation, and was now poor grass land, 41173.—It was dry, but so were some of the hillsides further in; it was only by great manuring and enormous labour that seaboard land produced anything, 41174.—Population on seaboard dependent on seaweed, 41175.—Shipping of turf another industry and burning of kelp; no fishing, 41176-8.—Places in Connemara where plots could be built, 41180.—No natural harbours, 41181.—Great expenditure necessary to make piers of use without harbour, 41182.—More sheltered places in Galway; inlet at Costello would give shelter, 41183-4.—Large boats would be required, 41185.

NORTH MAYO.

There was fishing in North Mayo; the land there would be better used if it were in South and West Connemara, 41178.—Population of maritime districts in North Mayo comparatively comfortable, houses good, there was grass land near Kikinsman and Killala which could be obtained at fair price without compulsion for enlargement of holdings; not wise to increase holdings to make agriculture main source of living, as population were accustomed to fishing, 41183, 41189, 41214, 41417.—They did not fish all the year round; while not engaged in fishing they should cultivate land with their families, 41211.—No vegetables grown in West of Ireland except cabbage, 41212.—Board had bought several estates in district, 41213.—Estate should be kept in hands and improved before sale to tenants, 41214.—No one should be driven from fishing to agriculture; the latter might not be the better means of livelihood, and land was scarce, 41215-6.—Undesirable to take a small population from labour which brought much money into the country; not a bad thing for people to go away sometimes, 41217-9.

SEED.

New seed wanted in North Mayo, advantage to sell seed, and send elsewhere for a change, 41185.—New seed made decided improvement, 41186-7.

POTATO SEED.

Better to change every year on small scale than to do it once in a way on a big scale; some system of changing seed would be very good, 41180.—Witness and his father gave seed to tenants when there was a failure; generally an improvement for several years afterwards, 41180.—Seed got from North-East Ireland, 41194.—Change from one part of estate to another of same use; witness got seed from the North this year on account of failure last year; amount given insufficient to plant whole estate, but was an assistance, 41195-6.—Now seed not a different kind; difficult to get tenants to take any but Champions; many people thought Champions a failure, 41197.—Difference of opinion as to which was best potato to take for seed; some took big, some small, others medium; they should be put down whole and they should sprout them, 41199.

O'CONOR DON, *Tm.*—continued.

POTATO SPRAYING.

By spraying witness meant picking potatoes dry in boxes, and allowing the sprouts to grow; they were planted later, and came up earlier than others, 41200-1.—They could be made to sprout quickly or slowly, 41202.—Producer Campbell suggested the method, and witness and his father found it so successful that he continued it, 41203.—Weak potatoes could be discarded; another advantage was that only the strongest shoot appeared, and whole strength of potato centred in it; country people weakened potatoes by cutting them into several parts; medium sized potatoes the best for sprouting, 41204.—Late frosts did little damage, wet affected potatoes more, 41205.—Blight affected sprouted potatoes less than others, as they were more advanced when put out; witness was experimenting with sprouting; return yielded was larger; he wished to see if it was useful for early and late planting, 41206.

SPRAYING.

Two or three seasons for apparent success of potatoes after year of failure; little spraying done after good year, after a bad one everyone sprayed, 41208.

DISTRICTS IN MAYO SOUTH OF BELMULLEN.

Districts in Mayo south of Belmullen were poor; land was bad, but capable of improvement by drainage, etc.; population was not supported; no land in vicinity available for enlargement; improvement of fishing; assistance in draining and methods of cultivation, etc., suggested as remedies; district was no grass land of any value; much unoccupied desolate moor with no population, which could not repay cultivation; some of it inland might grow sheep; road-making might help; little could be done; Parish Committee had done a good deal, and improved appearance of houses, 41217-9.

LAMB.

Lamb industry was doing some good, 41219-20.—Enlargement of holdings might be useful in inland districts bordering grass lands; local industries should have all possible encouragement, 41220.

FOURFORD.

Fourford an instance of what could be done in a short time without migration; wonderful how district had been changed, 41223-4, 1226.—Failure in other places due to want of management rather than bad management, 41222.—Fourford was in the wilds of Mayo, extremely congested; had looked a hopeless place to start anything in, 41223.—Assistance given by Board, but people not industry going themselves, 41224-5.—Difficult to get men to manage local industries; Fourford lucky in that respect, and they had large installation of machinery and plant, 41226.—Mostly women employed; large part of plant bought sometime ago, but that did not interfere much with industry, 41227.—Wages not high, 41228.—Unnecessary to import labour, 41229.

ACQUISITION OF LAND—QUESTION OF COMPENSATION.

Acquisition of grass lands necessary for enlargement of holdings and pacification of the country which would result; compensation might be needed if lands could not be got by amicable agreement, but witness thought there were grass lands available, 41230-43.—As much land as was needed could be acquired at fair price, 41234, 41235.—Even if a body like the Board decided it could not acquire cheaply voluntarily, still there would be no case for compulsion, because that body might wrongly decide what quantity was wanted, and what it was not able to acquire, 41235-6.—If Board were forced saying they wanted large quantity of land, and yet were unable to divide what they had, it would be no case for compulsion, 41237.—Even if a landlord objected to sell a small piece of land Board might go elsewhere for what they wanted, 41238-9, 41239.—Witness opposed to compulsion, but if anything were taken while should be bought in lots (exclusive of farms), not the best parts only, 41239-41.—To establish a case for compulsion necessity for obtaining grass land must be shown, and it must be proved that owners as a whole refused to sell what was necessary; not that one or two people with

O'CONOR DON, *Tm.*—continued.

bits here and there refused; real object of demand for compulsion was to get land cheaper, 41232-3, 41236.—Compulsion only necessary if it were proved that land that was necessary could not be obtained at fair price; witness maintained large quantities could be so obtained, 41235, 41236-4, 41236-10.—If owners of land in Roscommon were unwilling to sell, value of land should be ascertained and offered if Board could afford to give it, 41236-7, 41231.—To suppose landlords would refuse to sell was to suppose circumstances that did not exist, 41238.—Witness objected to compulsion on principle; only if there were great public need would it be fair to take land, as in case of railways, 41239.—Voluntary system might break down without justifying compulsion; Estates Commissioners under present Act might not be permitted to give value of land, as they might only give price they could recover on selling up holdings; holdings might be less valuable after being cut up than when used for grazing, 41240-1.—Compulsion might be necessary under certain conditions; these conditions had not arisen; Estates Commissioners had already as much land as they could deal with, 41238.—Plenty of land to be obtained without compulsion if fair price were given, and, above all, delay in completion of sale avoided; if it were true that graziers were getting into difficulties it would be better to wait, and get land cheaper; alleged demand for land by graziers did not point that way; if land were too dear graziers could not make it pay, and it would return cheap on market; if it were too cheap Board could offer more and buy; compulsion could be used as early after grazing had bought as now, 41235.

INSPECTION BY ESTATES COMMISSIONERS PRELIMINARY TO PURCHASE.

Landlords afraid of inspection of grass lands by Estates Commissioners, because if they did not agree to Commissioners' terms trouble might result, 41222-3, 41225-8, 41232.—They thought Commissioners were trying to get land below its value, which was the reason many landlords refused to allow preliminary inspection, 41220-2, 41224, 41228-9, 41235.—They would sell later on when things had quieted down, 41227.—With a little discretion they could be managed now if told they would get price to satisfy them, 41223, 41245-7, 41261.—A certain number of landlords applied for inspection, and did not get it, although Commissioners sent out circulars requesting leave to inspect where they had not been asked, 41223, 41232.—The only people who allowed inspection by Estates Commissioners were those who were very anxious to sell, hence failure to come to agreement after inspection exceptional, 41236-8.—Wrong to say that present situation in West of Ireland was due to landlords refusing inspection, 41239.—Generally speaking, landlord's price was a fair one, 41232-5, 41262.—Estates Commissioners should approach owners privately, not by circular, and tell them a fair price would be given; many landlords would take lower price than they were asking, 41236, 41243.—It should be made known that Commissioners were prepared to advance price beyond present offers; that would bring in large quantities of land, 41237-61.—More land available than was supposed, 41242.—Impossible that Estates Commissioners refused to take land offered to them at their own price, and though they stated that they could not pay for £25,000,000 worth of land already bought, yet continued to send out circulars saying they wanted to buy more land, 41239-40, 41265.—Estate could not be bought without inspection, but a pecuniary might be given to buy at certain price, subject to inspection; once where land was found to be worth less than that paid by grazier would be rare; right to have inspection at the start, but landlords objected to it, because they thought they were not given high enough price, and there was too much financial delay, 41230-4, 41237-8.—Confidence of landlords must be restored in order to make them allow Estates Commissioners to inspect, 41240.

DELAY IN COMPLETING SALE THE CHIEF CAUSE OF UNWILLINGNESS TO SELL.—INSTANCE OF DELAY.

Delay the chief cause of unwillingness to sell; if Government could offer cash down large portion of difficulty would be removed, 41238, 41236, 41236, 41261, 41267.—Burton Parson Estate was offered by landlord and provisionally taken; after two years it was de-

O'CONOR DON, The.—continued.

clared unsuitable; owner practically lost use of land in interval, 41232.—Government policy was to acquire land to enlarge holdings; Land Commission had adopted policy of not giving proper price and of huge delay, and blame should rest on them; if landlords thought they would be paid in reasonable time they would agree, but Land Commission did not complete within two or three years; £35,000,000 worth of property at present in process of sale which could not be completed for a great many years, 41233. If landlords could be told they would be fairly treated and paid without delay thousands of acres could be got in a week, as many as 40,000 acres in Roscommon and Mayo after certain amount of time and negotiation, 41245-61.—Speed almost as important as price; many landlords not unnumbered, and delay in paying purchase money was almost fatal to them, 41252.—Much land could be bought at price of a year or two ago if there were quick sales, 41244.—Low price given now than a few years ago, 41241-5.—There was also delay in getting a contract; Estates Commissioners did not bind themselves as to definition of estate and price; they only gave provisional agreement until the last moment, 41253.—Witness's own case an instance; provisional agreement made to buy 400 acres of grass land; land was inspected and approved of, cut up and settled, without binding agreement on either side; sale went through; when Commissioners divided land they excluded certain patches, and deducted value from purchase price; report on land had not mentioned that part was a useless swamp; it said land was suitable for enlargement of holdings; State must take some risk of not being able to re-sell if it wanted land; landlords would not sell on the chance of having small patches returned, 41254-60.—Swamp was returned because tenant could not be got, and for no other reason; land had had two inspections before offer was made for swamp; witness offered to procure tenant, but got no reply, 41260-1, 41216-18.—Portion of the best land was divided between two local publicans in large business, 41261-3.—There were plenty of people on other estates who could have been transplanted there, 41262, 41263.—In selling the 145 acres witness accepted the Estates Commissioners' figure; unless grass land not taken because no tenant could be got for it, not because witness wished to extort higher price, 41269-71.—Estates Commissioners did migrate people sometimes, and had large number of estates for that purpose, 41267.—Delay caused by absence of money; this had recently been contradicted, 41235-6.—Purchases could not be carried through in a way to treat everyone fairly without more funds; they must be prepared to lose more money; amount given to landlords could not be recovered from tenant purchasers, 41241-3, 41246, 41261.—Lack of funds responsible for delay, not collections; private sale got through in a month or two; sale through Estates Commissioners took two or three years, 41245.—Witness had purchased land in Ireland privately, and title was proved and sale completed in six weeks at longest, 41246, 41274-5.—Witness could quote instances of sale of grazed rents; six weeks the longest period taken; public body necessarily slower, but two or three years was too long, 41274-6.—Estate not paid for by Commissioners till long after purchase, 41262.—Interest of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on purchase money paid meanwhile, whereas charges on estate were sometimes four or five per cent, which had to be continued to be paid for perhaps two or three years, leaving landlord nothing to live on and in greatest difficulties, 41262-3, 41265.—Owner relieved of management charges once property was taken over, but Estates Commissioners did not take over till they were just ready to pay; loss of about two years' income in witness's case, 41268.—Low rates given, which had to be collected as arrears best could; no evictions could be carried out; much income lost, 41266.—Land in hand should be paid for before more was bought; not difficult a financial one, 41265.—Finances of the Act framed disadvantageously, 41267.—Land Commissioners did not pay punctually, even under Section 6; witness had only received November instalment in June; quick payment important to people in difficulties, 41272.—If vendor of tenanted or untenanted land were guaranteed four per cent. of purchase money from six months after lodgment of originating request or on application, hundreds of owners now afraid of delay would be willing to sell, 41287.—Impossible to make agreement at 4 per cent. with small tenants, 41276-9.

O'CONOR DON, The.—continued.

PRICE OF LAND—BASIS OF VALUATIONS.

Difficult to give instances where price was considered too low, as there would be trouble on the properties if it was known, 41236.—Landlords as a whole willing to sell at a fair price, 41210-11.—Estates Commissioners in position of purchaser without a free hand, they were bound to see there was enough security and therefore could not give as much as an ordinary purchaser, they were without personal pecuniary interest, but were not proper parties to fix price in case of compulsion, 41215-20.—True value pretty clearly fixed on estate that had been let for many years on grazing system, 41232, 41231.—Inspection required to prevent fraud, 41235-4, 41237-9.—Often impossible to arrive at true value even with inspection, 41235.—What a man had paid for land and been able to make living out of was the strongest evidence of value of land, 41235.—Board had made good bargains up to the present, they got £25,000 a year grazing receipts for land valued at £16,500 a year, they paid Land Commission less than they received, though they let grazing at 30 per cent. below usual rate, and were unable, through magnitude of their operations, to buy cattle with same care as ordinary grazier; this was conclusive proof that Board purchased 30 per cent. too cheap, 41277-80, 41294-5.—Board bought at price based on Poor Law valuation; Poor Law valuation in Roscommon admittedly 5s. in 8 lower than it ought to be, 41292.—Witness's father had sold at 15 per cent. under Poor Law valuation, but only under great compulsion, having been in negotiation for two years he could not withdraw, 41293, 41293-4.—Land sometimes put up for auction; before Board came there was difficulty in refusing grazing; unfair to say price charged by landlord was too high, when people were willing, and it paid them, to give it, just because Board was able to buy at fixed price and charge lower rate, 41294.—Interest on purchase-money paid by Board less than Poor Law valuation, 41298-90.—Land would yield more than Board got from it, landlord naturally wanted price that would recoup his actual income; even if land yielded only what Board got from it price should be more than Board paid, 41703-5.—Grazing income meant practically no expense, £15,500 not excessive rent for receipts of £20,000, 41298-9.—Not much difference in profits from grazing land oneself or taking in cattle; men without capital took in cattle, those with capital grazed land themselves; many think bigger profits made by being grazed by occupier, 41708.—Experts said land was worth more as tillage or cut up than as grazing; supposing it to be worth the same then, seeing that 14 times Poor Law valuation was made out of grazing, the fair annuity of land cut up would be $\frac{1}{14}$ Poor Law valuation, 41292.—Witness put bonus against cost of value, no cost of management after sale, 41293.—No bonus in what Board received, if £25,000 was paid for grazing, and land was as valuable when cut up, the holdings' rent of that land would be £25,000 a year, which was far more than landlords suggested, 41294-5.—Profits on stock being included in the £25,000 only showed that price charged for stock was not too high, 41293.—£25,000 would not be excessive profit if land were divided amongst various holders; witness did not agree with experts who said profit on holdings, allowing for man's labour, etc., would be more than grazing rents, 41298-7.

CHANCE OF RISE IN PRICE OF LAND.

As much chance of rise in value of land as of fall, importation of Canadian cattle would reduce price of young stock and injure small men, but would help grazier with good land as stock would be cheaper; price of beast when fattened would not be proportionately lower, there would be more profit; there might be Protection, but political possibilities on both sides must be considered, 41705-8.

GRAZERS' RENTS AND PRICES.

Landlord who had let land regularly for many years wanted price that would yield his income; Estate Commissioners would not give it; occasional grazing rent should not be considered; land in Roscommon let regularly on eleven months' system, eleven months' tenant was permanent in practice, though he could be ejected at a moment's notice; if rents could be got in that way from tenants who

O'CONNOR DON, *Ths.—continued.*

fourished it proved land was worth it, 41708-12.—To give eleven months' tenant privileges of an established tenant would add to difficulty of relieving congestion, 41709.—Men did not begin as graziers, they were well-to-do men willing to continue system and prosper under it which showed they were not paying too much for land; grazing system might be a monopoly, but same could be said of any property, 41714-6.—Grazier had paid same rents in Roscommon all the time, no attempt made to raise them, 41717.

BACK-RENT TENANT TEST OF VALUE.

Statutory rent was a rent fixed by a body appointed by statute, and was not a true test of value; statute was passed to protect small tenants from rents being forced up by demands for small holdings; such rent fixed in open market; where people were prospering for years and paying back-rent it could not be said land was not worth it, graziers were substantial men, able to look after their own interests, and should be left to do so, 41718-20.—Rents agreed on in open market truer than those fixed by statute, 41721-2.—It depended on class of land; difficulty in England of letting for large rents was where there was village, not where there was good grass, 41723-5.—Some grass land in England looked as good price as in Roscommon, land mostly not good, Irish climate moist and gave better grass; England had advantage of proximity to market, Ireland of climate, 41726-7.—Bad land in Hampshire let at 18s. an acre, which Land Commission would value at 5s. an acre in Ireland, 41728.—More rent would be got for a thousand acres if put up for auction, for eleven months' tenant than for future tenant, 41730-2.—Eleven months' rent was not a gross rent; taxes, etc., had to be maintained, 41733.

MARKET VALUE OF LAND.

Witness had been offered larger price cash down for a piece of his land than Estates Commissioners gave; land adjoining sold at much the same price had since changed hands, purchaser gave £1,200 or £1,300 for interest over and above the annuity, which showed market value of land, 41732.—Difficult to get tenant-complex if quantity of land were cut up, they could only be got by giving land cheaply, 41740.—Supply of land in Connanght equal to demand, 41750.—Witness advocated acquisition of grass land simply for purpose of relief of congestion, 41757.

TRUE VALUE OF UNCONGESTED LAND.

Annual value of uncongested land should be taken as at least one and one-third Poor Law valuation thus providing for interest of both owner and occupier; where valuation was under net income owner should have option of proving his receipts; these receipts should then be taken as value, and vendor should get capital sum to yield him his net income, 41855-6, 41859.—This would do away with uncertainty prevailing about price when left to valuers to fix; even expert valuers differed enormously in opinion as to value of land, 41859.—Poor Law valuation was 6 per cent. higher than second term rents, 41837.—Poor Law valuation represented landlord's interest; the third the occupier's interest, 41840.—Difficult to get at fair rent of grass lands, 41832.—15 per cent. below valuation taken in one case, objection raised as to price being sufficient, it would not have been sold but for the tenanted land, 41842-5.—Owner's interest for sale price represented by second term rents, 41859.—No second term rents on grass lands, 41860, 41867.—State put occupier's interest at one-third owner's in calculating income tax, 41841, 41849.—One and one-third on Mr. Doran's figures would be low, 41847.—First and second term rents often the same, no second term rents on good land in Roscommon, almost impossible to find average of second term rents on similar lands in the country, 41851-2, 41867.—Grass lands had been sold on Poor Law valuation at 25 to 30 years' purchase, and demesne bought back at higher price, 41858-9.—Multiple might be different if the third was added, but practice was the same, 41861.—Board went on Mr. Doran's valuation, not on Poor Law valuation, 41863.—Twenty-seven years' purchase was given, 41858.—That was not necessarily on Poor Law valuation, but on Mr. Doran's estimate, or that of whatever value was employed, 41862.—Three or four years' purchase was added to valuation, witness put it at one-third; difficult to ascertain net receipts where man farmed himself, profits could not

O'CONNOR DON, *Ths.—continued.*

always be allocated, many resident owners gave more employment than necessary as was done at Glenties; Mr. Doran's evidence showed true value of grass lands was in excess of standard witness suggested, 41869.

DEALINGS WITH BOARD AND ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.

Dealings with Congested Districts Board preferred in some districts, in others with Estates Commissioners, 41203.—Idea prevailed amongst landlords that in sale through Board money was more quickly paid than in sale through Estates Commissioners, 41414.—Great speed in enlarging holdings and migration undesirable for needs of population, but desirable in view of present state of country, 41264-5.—Huge mistake would be made if matter were rushed as probably would be done, 41266.

LAND FOR TENANTS' SONS.

Scheme suggested to quiet the country was to give holdings to tenants' sons; this would not relieve congestion, in fact might create it; less grass land required for cases where old holdings were relinquished than for giving to sons of tenants who remained on their holdings; there were two distinct schemes, giving holdings to sons that might be desirable, and would give them a living, 41260-73.—More difficult to relieve congestion by migration if land were in hands of tenants' sons, than if it remained in hands of landlords who refused to sell, 41374-6.—Best way was to obtain grass lands first and use them in profitable manner shown by Mr. Doran, then fill them up gradually as congested estates were required, 41267-8, 41302-7.

BOARD'S LACK OF FUNDS.

Regrettable that Board was at present debarr'd from negotiating for land required by want of funds, 41269-70, 41273.—That showed it was money, not land, that was not available, 41271.—Adequate funds should be provided, and with the quick purchase that made landlords prefer Board to Estates Commissioners many more acres of grass land would take place, 41275.—Board's income should be largely increased to enable them to give more assistance to poorer districts for piers, boats, roads, dikes, etc., and extending industries, 41430.

BOARD AND ESTATES COMMISSIONERS BOTH OPERATING IN CONGRUENT.

Board and Estates Commissioners had both done good work, undesirable to take powers away from either; Board should have more power, 41378.—Difficult for Estates Commissioners to hold large tracts of land for relief of congestion until Board were ready to put migrants on them, pressure would be put on Commissioners to break up land for tenants' sons and others; they could hold small quantities, 41379-83.—If grass land were to be held for relief of congestion it should be held by the authority who was going to manage migration, namely Congested Districts Board, 41365.—Board and Estates Commissioners should be quite separate, and not move migrants on to land held by each other, 41335.—Each should hold enough land only for its own immediate needs; good could be done by holding land adjoining estates purchased and using it for grazing, 41366.—Both bodies could operate in same area; rule might be made that one should not try to purchase land offered to the other, 41337.—Board should deal mainly with congested estates but so hard and fast rule need be made, prices offered might be different, 41388-9.—Mistake to put all Connanght under Estates Commissioners, it might all be put under Board as they knew more about management of congested areas, 41290-1.—Drawback to that was that Board's time and money would be wasted buying uncongested estates, there would be no one else to buy the latter if Estates Commissioners were excluded from Connanght, 41392-3, 41404.—There was, at present, an arrangement by which estates not requiring special treatment could, on certificate of Board, be transferred from owner to tenant, 41403.—Estates Commissioners might be allowed to purchase non-congested estates, but a third body would be necessary to determine which was to deal with estates offered, 41394.—Objections

O'CONOR DON, The.—continued.

to Estates Commissioners having sole powers of purchase and leaving management of estates after purchase to Board was that the latter knew more about estates, purchasing authority should be the one for subsequently dealing with estates because in fixing price subsequent use of land must be considered, 41265-408.—To allow Board to purchase non-congested estates would give them an immense amount of unnecessary work in determining whether estate could pass direct to tenant, 41407-10.—Giving Board a free hand would not necessarily relieve them of work, 41412.

EFFICIENCY OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Board a most efficient body; if scheduled areas were returned as basis, purchase of lands in districts scheduled should be in their hands with power to buy grass lands outside these districts; Estates Commissioners need not interfere except for purpose of financing and carrying through sales, undesirable to give Board trouble of investigating sales, 41429.—Undesirable to schedule whole of Connaught and put uncongested estates in Board's hands, 41500.

PARISH COMMITTEES.

Work of Parish Committees should be enlarged; improvement visible in most places where they worked; means insufficient to drain or improve lands, they could easily do much work; strict supervision necessary, a Committee found wasting funds should have them cut off, 41430, 41433-5.—Committees began with horseleads, and in a few instances went outside, 41433-2.—Methods good, cost of material usually provided, 41433, 41442.—Drainage could only be done by them in a small way; arterial drainage impossible, 41436.—Committees successful, as a rule; they depended on the person who worked them, who was usually the parish priest, 41431-3.—They were satisfactory where priest took no interest, 41437.—Frost the moving spirit present, in a few years they might do without guidance, 41439-42.—Mayo system of giving grants worked well, 41441.—Committees had an elected element, 41442.—Work consisted mostly of clearing cattle out of houses, building sheds, sheding, and sanitation more than improvement of land, 41444-9.

MIGRATION AND ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS.

Migration and enlargement of holdings not complete solution of problem of congestion; carried out in wholesale way it would lead to complete ruin in many districts, 41450, 41500.

HAY MARKET INTRODUCED BY CUTTING UP GRASS LANDS.

Cutting up all grass farms into small tillage ones as proposed by Mr. Finucane would put an end to market for hay, as there would be no one to use it; cost of transport, even at low rates, would prevent its being sent to a distance; small men would grow hay, not use land for grazing, as he would not have capital and hay paid better for time being, 41450-5, 41543.—Not economic to grow hay, it deteriorated the land, 41451.—Quantity of grass land at Belinagare cut up last year among tenants, all mowed this year, it would be ruined unless something were done to prevent constant reseedling, 41553.—Price of hay reduced; witness bought it at £1 a ton this year, largely to help tenants 41543.—Fall in price of hay from 22 to £1 a ton not entirely due to splitting up of grass land, partly due to high crop, 41560.—So long as even £1 a ton were paid hay would pay more than anxiety; land being let at 15s. an acre, for which 24 used to be paid, 41561.—Three to four tons got off an acre, 41562.

TILLAGE AND GRAZING.

Keeping stock not economic for small farmer; cost of fencing and labour of looking after them would prevent their being kept, stall-feeding in winter out of the question, 41456.—Ran of 30 or 40 acres on most fields at present, big graser took cattle from one field to another, small man would not be able to do that, so cattle would not do so well, 41457-66.—Mr. Finucane proposed 30 to 50 acre tillage farms, 41466-7.—Many cases where cutting up grass into mixed farms had not met with success, 41468.—Large hold-

O'CONOR DON, The.—continued.

ing contained more stock, acres for acres, than small holding held in grass, 41470.—More could be kept on small holding but not economically; in practice were maintained on large than on small holding in West of Ireland, 41471-5.—On small holding man and his family looked after thirty-acre grazing, on large one man and family looked after 300 acres, 41476.—Unfair to reckon nothing for tenant's time in valuing land, 41477.—Twenty acres too small a holding to pay as grazing, 41479.—Evidence hitherto given as to mixed farming was mostly from men in Government institutions where they always lost on farms, 41480, 41501.—In-feeding of cattle to be sold eventually to butcher was being abandoned in Roscommon as impossible to make it pay, 41483.—It was still done in Wexford and in Ulster, 41486-7.—Conditions in West less favourable; people did it in Wexford to get manure, but it hardly paid, 41488.—Land in grass would pay better; Wexford land unsuitable for constant grass, 41489.—In-feeding necessitated large use of cake and artificial food stuffs, even large farmers with a capital gave it up, it had been tried at Glenties without success, 41503.—Some areas in West suitable for tillage, but small farmers would not till, 41490.—No credit for wheat; barley would not pay, a little rye grown; oats would grow but crops not good, 41491.—Land too sticky for tillage, root crops poor; Roscommon land mostly on limestone, climate wet, small crops of crops to choose from, 41492, 41495.—Belinagare lands not suitable for tillage, 41505.

DECLINE OF TILLAGE.

Free Trade blasted out tillage, 41493-3a.—Since its introduction the general practice in England and Ireland was to reduce quantity of tillage, 41501-2.—In Scotland tillage probably decreased before it increased, 41503.—Tillage would never pay as compared with grass, 41494.—Witness has two or three farms, one worked as well as possible as a tillage farm, it was the only one that did not pay, 41495.—It was a disastrous loss, 41505.—Possible that tenants lived by mixed farming in Donegal; in Roscommon land was turned from tillage into grass; unlikely that tenants would do the opposite if given grass lands, 41490, 41505.—They would have potato garden and oat plot, which were the only tillied crops grown in Roscommon to any extent, 41506.—If no allowances were made for labour tillage would pay, 41497.—Much land near Castlebar had been turned from tillage to grass, 41497.—Without emigration there would be tillage, 41460.—Few labour-saving appliances had been introduced; under system of cutting up grass farms they could not be used as farmers had only small capital, 41489.—Impossible to expect small farms to give proportionately as much profit as large ones, 41500.—Broadly-speaking tillage was decreasing on small holdings in England and Ireland; that was difficult to explain if exports were right in saying tillage would pay, 41504.—Witness remembered many fields on small holdings in Roscommon formerly under tillage, now under grass, 41505.—There would always be a certain amount of tillage as land required to be tilled occasionally; land that did best in grass would be kept in grass, 41507.—Tilled land paid something, if it were good grass land it would pay more, 41508.—Little of the grass land broken up in Roscommon was brought under tillage; people would mow in spite of losses, 41510-2.—Only one small plot tilled on Belinagare, 41553.—Great difficulty would be experienced the first few years on a new holding if tenant wanted to till, 41554, 41581.—He would let the grazing at first, 41555.—He would never till, it would be the wrong thing for Roscommon land which was largely fattening land, 41556, 41562.—Tendency was not to till, advantage to have grass as adjunct to holding, it was the most profitable and easier to let, 41587-9.

MIGRATION.

Complete transformation of country into small farms impracticable as wholesale migration was impossible; people would not move, they said they would when Commissioners went round, but when it came to the point they refused, Glenties tenants an instance; they asked for new holdings, and said they would migrate, Estates Commissioners got land for them at Belinagare, 41508.—Commissioners refused

O'CONNOR DON, *Tie.*—*continued.*

to declare Clonalis an estate unless grass land of Bolanagore, twelve miles away, went with it, witness's father wished to keep that to sell with Bolanagore Estate, but eventually sold it with Clonalis; he thought tenants would not go there, 41885-5.—Price of grass land was affected by sale, and if he had known what was to be offered he would not have sold, 41885-7.—He had offered to give Bolanagore lands to Bolanagore tenants when that estate was sold, 41899.—Clonalis tenants were asked to go and choose holdings at Bolanagore; thirteen went to look at them, eventually only one more or less non-residential tenant migrated, 41899.—Also the Bolanagore schoolmaster, whose holding was worth 15s a year, 41881, 41882.—Board was estate was divided amongst Bolanagore tenants, 41898.—A few Clonalis men had since moved to Tade Estate, which was nearer, and the land was cheaper, 41810, 41812-3.—People could not be found to occupy grass lands, 41818.—Estate Commissioners, finding they could buy more land than they could dispose of, refused 185 acres offered at their own valuation, 41820.—Large fields at Bolanagore given to two publicans, 41811, 41824.—Clonalis people who had asked for other lands were probably relatives of tenants who wanted holdings, 41814-5.—Tenants now more willing to move than they were two years ago if they got good bargains, but not unless; number of migrants not much increased, but the spirit was moving the people; Clonalis Estate had been bought by Commissioners, but there was practically no relief of congestion there because the people would not move, one big man had gone to Bolanagore, and his holding helped about six tenants; very little done besides, 41836-7, 41838-9.—Clonalis people did not fear opposition from Bolanagore men as there was more than enough land for them, 41833-7.—A few still wanting land, but there was enough to satisfy them, 41836-7.—A few Clonalis tenants had been moved, but not from congested parts, 41832.—Clonalis was in a scheduled area, Bolanagore was not; estates in non-scheduled area had had holdings enlarged because land was available, that in scheduled area had not; something could be done to improve Clonalis, 41833-4.—In the past more care had been taken to select right man than could be taken in future because it was proposed to work on such a large scale, 41873-4.—Probably all available people had not been taken as land was so scarce, 41875.—Prejudice against migration was diminishing, 41876.—Board could not help moving unsuitable people, 41877.—It was said that migrants as a rule were doing badly, 41878.—They kept land in grass about Roscommon, with a little tillage round house, 41879-81.—They were the migrants of both Board and Estate Commissioners, 41880.—They must have been hard up for migrants if a woman who paid a rent of £1 10s was selected; perhaps she was specially chosen, and had means outside her holding, 41883.—New occupier should be supplied with some capital, he usually had none, and no knowledge of how to manage a farm, he naturally used it as grass with enough tillage for use of family, 41885.—Another objection to migration was that people in the districts objected to strangers; they thought all available land should be given to them, even though they did not actually need it, 41886-7, 41888.—Feeling comprehensible though congestion would never be relieved if it was yielded to, 41888.—Migration and enlargement of holdings useful, more money should be spent on it, and in starting new occupiers than hitherto, 41892.

TURF.

Lack of turf and water difficulty the great difficulty; practically no turf in grass land district between Castlereagh, Roscommon, Sligo, and Bolanagore, 41896-6.—In Limerick, where there was also no turf, farmers went in for growing and drying, perhaps as result of turf difficulty, 41897-8.—No turf in Wexford and Kilkenny areas, were not accustomed to have turf at their door, 41898-9.—Turf could not be got from Bag of Allen; there was a canal into the Shannon, but it was too far to cart to Roscommon, there was turf nearer than that, too costly to send it by rail, 41899-600.—Pressing turf had been suggested;

O'CONNOR DON, *Tie.*—*continued.*

not a success so far, nor Limerick machinery was got for pressing, but nothing further done; plenty of turf further west, it was expensive to cart, 41900.

WATER SUPPLY.

No rivers or streams on some grass lands, great expense in providing water at farms near Ballintubber, 41903, 41903-3.—Land cut up in what would otherwise be an improper way to overcome difficulty, 41903.—Artesian wells could be made, but it all added to difficulty of re-selling at a price that would be fair, 41904.—Difficulty not the same on 200 or 300 acre farm under cattle; there might be water on it to which cattle could go, yet not enough for each plot if it were divided, 41905, 41904.—There had already been trouble over the water question, 41905.—Water was there, difficulty was in carrying, 41905.—In some places a dam could be made to supply cattle, 41905.—Turf and water difficulties not insuperable, 41906.

SUBSEQUENT SUB-DIVISION AND MEADOWING.

Enlargement where grass lands adjoined poor holdings was advantageous, provided steps were taken to ensure proper use of grass lands; added land would be ruined unless precautions were taken against sub-division and constant meadowing; prevention of sub-division impossible, but it could be kept in check; present powers of Land Commission inadequate, idea of rate collectors to inform about it was ridiculous; witness's father tried enlargement of holdings at Clonalis; it had worked well, but sub-division took place although everything was done to prevent it; added land had been kept in grass, 41843.—Only means of preventing sub-division was to make holdings such that they would not easily be sub-divisible, 41872.—Quantity of grass land at Bolanagore was cut up last year among tenants; all meadowed this year, it would be ruined unless something was done to prevent constant meadowing, 41843.—Land only split up in April or May, 41845.—It was not fenced and could not be grazed; meadowing the only use it could be put to, 41845-7.—Since then fences had been put up largely at tenants' expense, with grants to help them, 41848-9.

CONTROL OF TENANTS' MANAGEMENT OF LAND.

Estate Commissioners should have power to see that land was properly used, danger that poor tenants would starve the land, 41852.—Good deal could be done by holding up vesting order for certain period, the man in occupation paying interest meanwhile; if a man got into right way of doing things for four or five years he would probably continue it, 41853-4.—Annually now began with vesting order, law could be altered to make it start at once, 41870.—There would be a difficulty over the matter, 41871.

LABOUR.

Not always easy to get labour, 41828.—Labourers were small holders, 41829.—Witness got labourers from his own tenants, small holders up to £4 or £5 valuation, 41830-1.—Labour supply would shrink when tenants became economic, difficulty of getting men at present on account of work of Board and Commissioners, wages higher, 41832.—Some labourers in better position, refused to work with witness, were better paid, 2s a day earned at home, 14s a week in England, 41834.—Married man with family could not save £15 in seven months, 41835.—£15 rather high, 41836.—It would mean 12s a week for time work, 41839, 41842.—Few women went from witness's district, it was generally young men with father and mother to support, 41837.—They had to pay their railway fare, and did not get £1 a week as agricultural labourers, even at harvest, 41839-40.—Men earning £1 a week at piece-work of course would not stay at home, 41843.—People working in England had practically nothing to do in winter, this fact must be put against high wages earned in summer; high wages to be earned in Ireland also in summer, 41841-2.

O'CONNOR DON, *Ths.*—continued.

GRASS LAND AVAILABLE.

Thousands of acres of grass land available in Galway, Mayo, and Roscommon, if fair price were paid; proof of this was given, in fact that Commissioners returned 185 acres on Cuckrowagh Farm to witnesses, which they were getting at their own valuation; 41643.—This perhaps had no bearing on matter if only best land were wanted, 41634.

LETTING OF GRASS LAND BY BOARD.

Board should buy grass land and let it to tenants at low rates, grazing more economical that way than in small plots; even if migration on large scale were possible there was plenty of grass still available if fair price were given and no delay in carrying out contract, 41649.—System not unpopular, could be carried out where small holdings were around the grass land, 41650, 41655.—Could not be adopted on 40,000 acres mentioned by witnesses, but could be, and was, adopted a great deal, 41651.—Board could grass without loss and make more than the 3½ per cent. required to pay interest on purchase, 41652.—Mr. Dunn gave £25,000 a year as amount realised on property of 15,000 to 20,000 acres, 41653-4.—If Board bought 50,000 acres they would not lose in interval between purchase and distribution, 41654.—They would not grass 50,000 acres permanently, 41654.—Board grassed and stocked their farms as well as taking in cattle, they charged one-third less for grazing and the system was popular, 41655.—Advantage for small holders to have facilities for grazing at low rate even at a distance, although landowners might disapprove of system as cutting down grazing rates, 41655.—They would not object if land were bought, if it were for good of country they must submit, 41657.—Smaller areas could be permanently grassed, it would be great advantage to people round, 41658-9.—Grazing could enter into migration scheme and people might be given patch for tillage, and be allowed to graze cattle at low rate; land unsuitable for cutting up must often be bought and could be used for grazing, 41660.—Two or three miles away was the furthest that permanent grazing could be from holding, there would be difficulties if people went further in attending to cattle, and adjoining owners would object, 41661-4, 41666.—Could be done temporarily at greater distance, 41669.—Letting grazing was only an expedient, it would not solve whole problem of congestion, 41666-7.—Grazing tracts should not be sold, only let; Board likely to continue for a great many years, if not some other body could take over grazing, 41672-3.—It was done at present with idea that it would accustom small occupiers to lands to which they might afterwards migrate, 41673-6.

LOSSES ON LAND STOCK.

Expenses of Station of Land Stock and banking losses in that connection fell on Irish tax-payer, unnecessary loss of 8½ per cent., if consols were at 85 Land Stock ought to stand at 93, 41680-2, 41646.—England got the advantage, and Irish tax-payer met the loss, owing to way Land Stock was sold out; if it was raised as Consols, for every 2½ per cent. 85 would be paid, whereas now they were only 85 for 2½ per cent., 41633.—There were two sources of loss, apart from those in connection with non-payment of annuities, discount, and bank loss, 41634-5, 41648.—There were taken either out of Irish Development Grant or grants-in-aid and fell entirely on Irish tax-payers, 41636-8, 41642-3.

QUESTION OF REPRESENTATION TO CORRESPOND WITH TAXPAYERS.

There should be representation to correspond with taxation if possible, 41689.—Simpler way would be to do away with taxation, 41640.—Solve would never be carried through if there were an elected body to deal with the matter, 41639, 41641, 41644.—Majority of taxpayers would not want it, 41645.

BONUS AND LOSS DURING INTERVAL OF SALE.

Bonus went entirely to landlord, but in sales to Land Commission landlord paid costs, in ordinary sales purchaser paid them, or else fixed sum for vendor's costs; bonus simply a liberal allowance for costs and loss during sale, 41733-5.—No compensation to agent in case alluded to, he was only paid very small

O'CONNOR DON, *Ths.*—continued.

sum of 1½ per cent., 41736, 41741.—£12 out of £200 not an extraordinary amount for clerical work, etc.; landlord on selling had to pay certain sums to get sale through, bailiff had to be given something; 1½ to 2 per cent. paid to solicitor; there were also surveyor's fees, and costs of various people having charges against estate; head rent had to be cleared; witness had worked out figures in two cases, one of direct sale, the other under Section 6, losses in first case came to 12 per cent., in second to 11 per cent., 41737-41.—Biggest item was loss of rent during interval, that was calculated on rental for five years previous to sale, and on receipts during two and a half years that sale was going through, when 3½ per cent. was supposed to be received, 41744-5.—3½ per cent. never received, 41747-8.—It was supposed to run from signing of agreement to date of contract with Estate Commissioners, 41749.—Practice adopted was to negotiate with tenants under Section 6 and see what price they would give, then to interview Estate Commissioners and see if they were likely to sanction sale, then to get agreements signed, 41748.—In one case tenants insisted on agreements being signed because unless it was done there was a loss, 41750.—Commissioners usually insisted on it, 41754.—Tenants were not asked to sign in order to get higher price in witness's case, 41750.—Nor did he expect to bring operations within the area, they were mostly non-judicial tenants, 41752-3.—After signing of agreements application was lodged, tenant was then supposed to pay 3½ per cent. in interval; he often did not, and could not be compelled to do so, 41758.—Nothing could be added to rent after signing agreements, 41756.—Application to add half-year's rent to purchase-money in one case was refused although tenants wished it, Commissioners gave every facility for collecting arrears, 41757.—No arrears had previously been added, 41758.—Rent only paid once a year, 41774.—Never on day it was due; hammer came down on particular day after which nothing could be paid, 41759.—It did not pay to wait, landlords preferred to lose the 3½ per cent., 41760.—If hammer came down on 1st November, 3½ per cent. only paid up to 1st May; to add hanging sale to purchase price would be to increase number of years' purchase, it had never been done, 41765-6, 41768.—Theoretically it could be done, but not in practice, 41766.—Tenants would pay to Congested Districts Board but not to landlords; they would not come in to the day, there was always the broken period lost by landlords, 41767, 41768.—Taking income prior and subsequent to sale loss was found to amount to bonus, 41768.—In direct sales the 3½ per cent. was paid more regularly because Estate Commissioners had power to collect it after sale had gone through; it could not be collected in indirect sales once sale was sanctioned; a case had occurred where agent got agreements signed before arrears were paid and tenants then refused to pay, 41770.—Witness had sold both direct and under Section 6 during last two years; direct sale was the smaller one, but costs were proportionately higher, because tenants only consented to buy if they had no rent to pay, 41771-4.—Year's rent was due, 41777.—Nothing added to purchase price for it; 22 years' purchase paid, bonus went in costs and expenses, 41780, 41782-3, 41817.—Rent of bonus went in costs, 41793-4.—Loss of one year's rent due was part of cost of sale, 41793.—In stating that landlord got high price for land and bonus all these costs must be considered and allowance made for loss of income in interval of sale; landlord got low price and bonus, not high price and bonus, 41793.—Board paid partially so there was no loss of income in sale to them; they also paid something for arrears, 41795.—During period of payment of 3½ per cent. landlord's income was smaller, and in case of encumbered owner it sometimes all went in charges, 41799.

WITNESS'S PROPERTY.

Actual receipts during ten years from property mentioned by witness were £375 on rental of £375, with charges amounting to £200, 41775-6, 41822.—Rent £600, net receipts after deducting expenses, £375 every year, 41800-1.—Agent's fees of 5 per cent. deducted, bailiffs' fees £7 a year, bad debts, soil, some arrears included; receipts every year were more than

O'CONNOR DON, *The*.—continued.

the rent, 41809-8.—Twenty-two years' purchase gave 28,600, which, invested at 4 per cent., would yield £285, as against £275, 41812-9.—£8,800 plus bonus of £1,000 gave £9,800 as gross purchase-money; £5,000 redemption price or head rent being deducted left £4,800, then £1,100 deducted for costs and loss during sale left £3,700, which invested at 3½ per cent. yielded £131 10s., as against £175 on £160 if arrears were deducted, 41820-9.—£3,650 invested at 4 per cent. only yielded £150, 41820.—Witness and his father were resident landlords; margin for management of absentee landlords' estate might be greater, 41827-8.—As a fact, one of witness's estates was practically on absentee estate, yet receipts from it were larger than from the residential one, 41829.—Absentee estate more easily managed, rents paid more regularly than when landlord was on the spot and was a good-natured man, 41830-1.—£275 out of £400 a high average, 41832.—At time this was received management had been transferred from witness's father to himself, and he was then an absentee, 41833-4.—On a property worth £10,000, sold at 25 years' purchase, price would be £22,000, which, at 3½ per cent., would yield £775 a year; cost of management at 20 per cent. would leave £900 a year, less £350, 41860, 41862.—Loss less if expenditure were greater and vice versa, 41861.—Interest on charges, 4½ to 5 per cent., less heavy if margin were small, 41813.

THREE SYSTEMS OF SALE.

Estates adjoining witness's property had been sold on three systems; Clonsilla under Section 6; Sandford under direct sale; De Freyne and Dillon Estates sold to Board; sale to Board gave most satisfaction, because holdings had been improved, 41870-1.—Estates Commissioners had no money to improve holdings because Clonsilla was not bought as congested estate; landlords would have raised no objection to that, 41872.—Clonsilla not congested as a whole, two or three townlands very poor, 41873.—Large difference in practice between direct sale and sale under Section 6, except possibility of migrating tenants; Clonsilla sale had been delayed one and a half years to provide for that, 41874-5.—Grass lands bought to transplant tenants to, 41876.—Estates Commissioners could spend money on fences, etc., for new tenants up to 10 per cent., 41877-9.—Even with direct sale money could be spent, £2,000 spent on Sandford Estate on draining bog, nothing on Clonsilla, 41880-1.

BOARD'S OPERATIONS ON DILLON PROPERTY.

Witness lived next to Dillon property, 41885.—Board had done much for cottages there, especially in giving employment and good wages, 41886.—Estate stretches for twenty-five miles, grass lands available ten miles from end nearest Carlow, 41887.—Tenants might be rugged; more desire to get enlarged holdings than new ones, 41888.

LANDLORDS OF THE WEST.

Landlords of the West did much for their tenants, rental of Clonsilla and more spent annually in labour; in 1880 £4,000 spent by witness's father on relief works chiefly on tenants' holdings; labour, etc., constantly given to tenants for houses, bridges, etc.; tenants allowed to pay rent by feeding cattle; since witness sold property he had had numbers of applications for cattle to pay Land Commission rent; cattle sent to prevent although it was not the most profitable way of feeding them, many landlords helped in similar way, 41889-91.—Estates Commissioners had spent nothing on holdings, tenants expected a few thousands to be spent, 41890.

FUTURE POWERS FOR CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

Congested Districts Board should have ample funds and full powers of regulating holdings and carrying out drainage works, proper staff, and ensure quick payment of purchase-money to witnesses, this would do much towards unloading lot of the poor in West of Ireland, 41890.

Document put in by the O'Connor Don.

Notes of Evidence.

Page
334

HARRINGTON, Mr. W.

(See pp. 254-5.)

SCHEME FOR EXTRACTING IODINE FROM KELP.

It was many years since witness had been in touch with kelp industry; his firm manufactured chemicals, and had hoped to do something in the direction of recovering iodine from kelp in connection with other matters; witness had therefore proceeded to West Kerry, and there interviewed a Mr. McDonnell or O'Donnell, who had started collecting seaweed and burning kelp, with a view to profit and to assisting the people of the neighbourhood; he thought of extracting salts from the kelp, which contained potash salts and soda salts; it was proposed that he should send the concentrated iodine to witness's firm; the scheme only just paid its way; one difficulty was that sufficient weed was not always obtainable, owing to weather, etc.; witness's firm extracted the iodine partly, and also sent it in concentrated form to France, where a market was obtained; this was done through a London agent, whose application for concentrated iodine solution had first suggested this scheme to witness's firm; the concentrated solution was got into France without duty under name of soda lye, and it paid the agent well; the death of Mr. McDonnell caused the scheme to collapse, 41898-91.—Mr. McDonnell cleared his expenses, but he did not work economically; he used a kind of out-house, employed men collecting and burning kelp, extracted the salts himself, and sent up the concentrated liquor containing the iodine and many of the soda salts; he extracted the potash, which witness thought he used as a manure, 41893-5.—He did the burning in the open, a wasteful method, 41896-7.

MARKET FOR KELP PRODUCTS.

The principal source of iodine was Chilli saltpetre; witness discovered years ago that the controllers of this source had immense stocks of iodine, and could at any time swamp the market, so that it would be dangerous to establish works in Ireland to extract iodine and potash and other salts from kelp, 41899, 41900.—Potash salts were always marketable; they were not known in great quantity when kelp-making started in Ireland; deposits of potash since found in Germany had greatly reduced profit of kelp industry, 41899.—Kelp contained 25 to 40 per cent. of chloride of potash, about 10 per cent. of sulphate of potash, and perhaps 5 or 6 per cent. carbonate of potash, 41905-4.—Potash salts were worth about £9 per ton; it was troublesome to extract them from kelp, and doubtful whether doing so would pay, 41895, 41900, 41909-30.—Good kelp sometimes sold £4 a ton, 41903.—Controllers of Chilian supply of iodine did not mind the competition, as amount of iodine extracted from kelp was small; it was their interest to keep the price of iodine steady; the Chilian supply regulated price of iodine, and if kelp became a serious competitor controllers of the Chilian supply would lower the price, 41906-1, 41903, 41908, 41909.—They were not likely to do this so that a certain market for Irish kelp would probably continue, 41971.—The question whether kelp iodine would compete seriously with Chilian iodine depended on the amount, the iodine being the same in quality in the two cases; iodine had declined in price in recent years; it was now about 6s. a pound, but was never much more; there was plenty in Chilli, where it was got out of the strata, 41905-4, 41908.—It was as much used in medicine as ever, 41905.—The price of kelp was entirely controlled by the buyers; no firm in Ireland worked kelp, extracting iodine from it, and as far as witness knew, only one firm in Scotland, namely, Paterson's, 41908-10, 41928-3, 41917.—The price paid by Paterson for kelp might be the highest that would admit a profit, but at present he enjoyed a monopoly, 41928-4, 41975.—It was a bad sign if kelp was left on the burner's hands in some places as at present; whether the object of this was to get the price down was impossible to say; perhaps the manufacturers found that at £3 a ton it did not pay them, 41908, 41974.—Paterson's had no connection with the American supply of iodine, 41911.

PROSPECTS OF A KELP FACTORY FOR IRELAND.

The starting of a factory for kelp in Ireland would merely result in a diversion of some of the kelp from Paterson's factory, the general output of iodine would

HARRINGTON, Mr. W.—continued.

be no greater, 41919-20.—The starting of works in Ireland by Congested Districts Board in the idea of securing better prices to help burners would be a big undertaking, and might prove a failure, 41936-7.—Such an undertaking would be the only way to raise the price of kelp, but it was a question whether it would pay, 41945.—To pay it must not be done on a small scale, 41951.—Is such a factory every marketable product should be recovered from the kelp, 41941.—If these products were then exported to Paterson's no advantage would be gained as compared with exporting the kelp, because freight would have to be paid on the sulphate of potash, 41942.—The danger of starting a factory on the Irish coast was that Paterson's might be put out of the market, not that the controllers of the general iodine industry might be offended, 41973-8.—The kelp for such a factory would have to be taken from every part of Ireland, as no one part could produce enough kelp to keep a factory going all the year; it would be cheaper to ship to Glasgow than from one part of Ireland to another; as Irish-controlled factory in Scotland would be feasible, 41982, 41979-81, 41983.—Kelp was not bulky but heavy, 41982.—There might not be enough kelp obtainable to supply Paterson's works as well as new Irish works, 41983-4.

METHODS OF OBTAINING AND EXTRACTING PRODUCTS FROM KELP.

The percentage of iodine in a ton of kelp varied from 2 to 1.4; the general run was 4 to 5, or about one-half per cent, 41966.—The present method of burning involved great loss, 41967.—Burning in brick houses with furnaces was a more economical method than burning in the open, and was method pursued in Scotland, 41968-69.—If a factory were started the people of the coast should still be left to burn the kelp, but to encourage methods which did not waste iodine payment should be made according to the amount of iodine in the kelp; at present kelp was adulterated with sand put in to make weight, 41940, 41943-5, 41965.—There would be a difficulty in estimating the amount of iodine in the kelp, 41966-7.—Some of the iodine must necessarily be lost in burning, but carelessness caused unnecessary loss, 41946.—In burning kelp it was important to get the May weed; some weed had more iodine than others, 41954.—When the kelp was burned all the organic matter went away, leaving the minerals, all vegetable matter had a certain amount of mineral contents which remained as ash with a certain amount of blackness from carbon, and the iodine there was combined with soda to a certain extent, 41968.—The weed burned in a lump produced something like a black stone, which was kelp, 41959-60.—It was sold solid or in ashes; in ashes when it was desirable to prove there was no admixture, as in that form it could be run through a sieve and stones easily detected; sand was also put in, and this would pass through the sieve, 41961-2.—The solid form was hard burned; the ashes were fused; for the hard form, which was the usual one, greater heat was needed, 41963-5.—In both forms only the mineral matter remained, 41967.—To extract the salts the kelp was dissolved by water heated in a series of tanks; some salts were more soluble than others; sulphate of potash was the most insoluble salt contained in the kelp and crystallised out first; more was then evaporated, and the soda salts crystallised out next; then chloride of potash, iodine salts were the most soluble, and remained in the last liquor; the cost of production depended on the method of evaporation, 41928, 41968.—Sulphate of soda was also contained in the kelp, but was worth nothing, 41929.

PIGOT, Mr. J. L.
(See pp. 258-66.)

EXPERIENCE OF WITNESS.

Witness was chief of the Mapping and Surveying Department of Estates Commissioners, and did any export forestry business that came before Commissioners, 41985.—He had twenty years' experience in India, and was trained in French National Forestry College; he had been interested in question of afforestation in Ireland since the 1885 Parliamentary Commission, for which he procured some evidence, 41886.

PIGOT, Mr. J. L.—continued.

AFFORESTATION OF IRELAND.

Ireland contained vast tracts of land, which could be best utilised for State forests for the production of timber and minor forest products, such as osiers, 41920-21.—It had been stated in evidence before a previous Parliamentary Commission, and in a recent pamphlet of Department of Agriculture, that osiers could be profitably grown, 41922.—Witness was not aware that many acres of osiers had gone out of cultivation for lack of demand, and that the basket used in the fishing industry were manufactured by several factories in Scotland, 41923-5.—There was a large trade in osier baskets generally, 41926.—Various Commissions of Inquiry had established that forests properly managed under conditions of soil and climate such as prevailed in Ireland were a sound financial investment, 41926.—Afforestation of waste lands would pay the State better than reclamation for agriculture, 41925-7, 42000-6.—As regarded trees dotted about, Ireland was not insufficiently wooded and compared favourably with Spain and Italy, 42124, 42126.—Of woods Ireland's percentage was 1.4 per cent, the lowest of any country in Europe except Portugal, 42018, 42124-5.—Ireland was formerly celebrated for her timber, and potentially she was the best timber-growing country in Europe, 42018.—There were practically no scientifically-managed woodlands in Ireland; in France, Germany, etc., scientific management of forestry by the State had proved of economic advantage; in general the State alone could afford the initial expense of planting or reclamation on a large scale, could wait until the capital began to yield interest, and could secure continuity in management, 41999-42000.—The Select Committee of the House of Commons on Forestry (1887), and the Departmental Committee on British Forestry, appointed by Department of Agriculture in 1902, had recognised the importance of forestry, and there had since been grants from the Treasury for instruction in forestry, 42025.

LAND PURCHASE ACTS AND FORESTRY QUESTION.

Since the Land Act of 1903 trees had been felled recklessly, and under present conditions the existence of woods interfered with the transfer of grass lands, 42018-20, 42064, 42062.—Both vendors and tenant-purchasers felled trees; tenant-purchasers had only single trees, small belts and wind-screens to fell, 42021-3, 42065.—Planting of wind-screens was not a universal practice, but was increasing; tree-planting was reviving in certain parts, 42061-4, 42090.—On the Wallace property in Down, in Armagh, and in certain parts of Limerick, Wicklow, and the West, there had been clearance of trees, 42025-6.—Vendors had cut down woods before selling, 42027-8.—Land Act did not deal with woods except under Section 4, which empowered the vesting of woods in hands of trustees for certain purposes; owners sold woods to get rid of their estates; in one instance, typical of many, a large landowner had arranged with his tenants for sale of an estate, except a large wood, tenants refused to buy the wood, but would not permit its being felled if they were to purchase, it was settled that the owner should apply to Estates Commissioners to purchase his wood, 42029.—Estates Commissioners could only buy such woods to re-sell at a profit; even if Commissioners were a forestry department the possession of numerous small woods would be an embarrassment, and unprofitable, as they would need a large staff to tend them, 42030-7.—Where small woods were required in the interests of the tenants the latter could assist in their preservation, 42037-8.—Witness procured a good deal of information for the late Dr. Lyons, who interested himself in afforestation, 42065.—It was conveyed to occupiers interested that it would not be difficult to them to look after the trees planted if they received periodical visits from a skilled forester; many lands already planted were so small in area, or so situated that they could not effectively be protected from injury once the surrounding lands were sold, such woods might, with advantage, be preserved or added to where any person or public authority was interested in safeguarding them; it had been already proved that in the case of estates purchased by the Land Commission under Section 6 of the Act the increased value of the estate after re-arrangement of holdings and sub-division of untenanted lands might

PIGOT, Mr. J. L.—continued.

allow of such woods being re-sold at a low figure or retained by the nation almost free of cost on the purchase amount; in some cases such woods might properly disappear, having regard to their prospective value or the superior requirements of agriculture; there was, however, no one to advise with authority, and vendors unable to find other purchasers sold the woods to timber merchants; in one case where there was a dispute over timber rights between a vendor and his tenants who had signed purchase agreements, both parties quickly felled all the available trees; once the free-sample of the land was voted in a tenant-purchase the latter had a full right to fell and sell timber unless his doing so unduly lowered the value of the land as security for the purchase-money advanced; even if the Land Commission had a right to interfere it lacked the power to prevent, so long as the trees remained unfelled the presence of cutlying scattered woods might prevent the sale of an estate to the Land Commission; that Commission, while empowered to hold woods temporarily, had no means of managing them or protecting them for the time being; it might be expected that the sanction by law of compulsory sale would bring with it the necessity of purchasing all poor unimproved land in each estate affected, and thus place woods on the Land Commission's hands, while the re-arrangement of estates prior to re-sale would facilitate in a manner not likely to recur the acquisition of extensive tracts of mountain and heath suitable to planting, 42065.—It would be more difficult to reforest waste lands after their transfer to many small peasant proprietors as it would then be more difficult to acquire the land, and its price would be increased, 42018, 42065.—If a scheme of compulsory purchase, such as that proposed to the Commission, were applied the State would become proprietor of practically all the waste lands in the western districts; these lands could not be finally dealt with by any re-arrangement of agricultural holdings though till such re-arrangement it could not be determined which lands were waste and how much of the waste could be planted; the agency administering compulsory purchase might undertake new planting and manage existing woods, but could not hinder the destruction of timber; vendors were constantly selling to tenants lands which were economically surplus lands for tenants' purposes, and were thus increasing the difficulties of utilizing these lands; the difficulty of preserving woods surrounded by newly purchased tenanted lands was not confined to the West; in other parts there were extensive mountain tracts suited to planting, as in Tipperary 56,000 acres, in Tyrone, 102,500 acres; any comprehensive scheme of State forestry must be permanent, and would take a century to mature financially; financially an investment in forestry might be as well secured as one in agricultural land, but advances made by the State for economic forestry could not be recovered with the certainty and regularity expected in the case of Irish land purchase advances, 42062.

LOCAL CONTROL OF FOREST INSTRUCTIONS.

Neither trustees in the ordinary sense, nor a local Committee of tenant farmers could be trusted to control forests because of the expert knowledge required, 42041, 42062, 42098-100.—In France, while the communes held the forests and took the profits the control was vested in the State, the trustees being highly-trained officials, 42042-5, 42047, 42050-3.—Such small expenses as the State incurred for forestry were paid in France out of the profits, 42054.—The State, as far as possible, met the wishes of the communes, 42058.—Management of forestry by County Councils was open to the objection that local interests being of a varying nature would interfere with a business as essentially conservative as forestry, 42047-9, 42060-106.—The question of dealing with isolated trees and shelter belts on holdings was admittedly difficult, a difference would have to be made between non-registered timber, and timber registered as planted by the tenant; registered timber could probably not be interfered with, 42095-7.—Under local management the tendency would be to cut down rather than plant trees, 42101.—Shelter belts were the double-edged put up by the tenant to shelter his holding from the prevailing wind quarter; to plant these did not require

PIGOT, Mr. J. L.—continued.

much knowledge, and the people were sufficiently intelligent to do the work, but they could not at present be trusted to look after the shelter belts, as they were often unaware of the value of existing belts, many of which were being felled, 42102-3.—These belts were on small holdings near the house, so that they could only be dealt with by the men themselves, but the latter might receive a bonus from the county if they attended to the belts well, 42106-9.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AS A FORESTRY AUTHORITY.

No new Government Department for forestry should be created, but the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction should superintend forestry matters, as was intended under its constituting Act, under terms of which it could, however, act only experimentally or for purpose of instruction, 42038, 42068.—A few woods with an area of about 2,000 acres had been vested in Department of Agriculture, but otherwise Section 4 of the Land Act of 1903 had proved ineffectual in preserving woods and plantations or setting apart lands for planting; in 1904 the Agricultural Department represented to Estate Commissioners that it had previously been debarred from exercising its functions in the matter of forestry, because suitable land was almost entirely in private hands, but that the Act of 1903 had fundamentally changed the conditions; the Department was, therefore, given the option of purchasing any woods or lands offered for sale to the Commission, but nothing was done owing to lack of funds, and want of a proper agency to deal with forestry; the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act of 1899 empowered County Councils to make a rate for forestry purposes, but only a few of the counties appeared to have moved in the matter, and funds were too small to be of value, 42065-7, 42069-93.—The definition of forestry purposes in the Act included sowing and developing forestry; for this the Congested Districts Board also had powers; Agricultural Department had practically no funds for forestry, 42038-9.—County Councils could not hold land for purposes of Leabourers Act of 1906; Rural District Councils could hold land for labourers' cottages, 42093.—A special forestry branch should be incorporated with Department of Agriculture, which should take over surplus Crown waste lands suitable for afforestation, and such plantations purchased by Estate Commissioners and Congested Districts Board as ought to be permanently preserved, 42093-4.—Department should be able to purchase waste land or formed woods direct from vendors, and should manage existing Crown woods and such agricultural or arboricultural work as was now performed by various Government authorities; its duties would include collection and diffusion of useful information relative to tree planting in relation to agriculture and raising stock, and it would also deal with forestry as part of the general question of land settlement, with a view to improve agriculture and develop industries by assisting in arboriculture on farms and by creating a national forest property; the Crown Quilt Rents, and the sums for which they were redeemed under the Land Act, might be utilized for planting and instructional purposes; in England gill rents were applied by Commissioners of Woods and Forests to acquisition and development of Crown property; the main duty of the Agricultural Department in regard to forestry would be to acquire suitable lands while possible; sufficient land must be acquired fairly cheaply in advance if advantages claimed for national forestry in Ireland were to be secured; protection of trees on holdings vested under Land Purchase Acts should be facilitated by a change in the law; but former laws, or terms, under which tenants were required to plant, or refrain from cutting timber, often operated harshly, 42079, 42094.

LAND SUITABLE FOR PLANTING.

Much of the present woodland must eventually be stripped up with the grass land; three classes of land might become available for tree-planting on an extensive scale—(1) Mountain and heath land, (2) bog, (3) narrow swines, steep slopes, rocky or poor land in sub-montane or low-lying districts generally;

PIGOT, Mr. J. L.—continued.

the mountain and heath lands, comprising 2½ million acres, were best suited to economic forestry, 42073.—These 2½ million acres were not all waste land; draining before planting was usually unnecessary or inexpedient; fencing and general protection could be economically arranged for where the plantations were large and had suitable boundaries, 42080.—It had been stated before present Commission that there were tracts of mountain side that would be better under planting than used for grazing or included in holdings, 42058, 42076.—It would be difficult to persuade tenants to agree to giving up for forestry purposes mountain slopes that could be utilized for grazing, 42071.—Though some of the mountain land might be at present deserted, it might be obtained from tenants at a small price for timber purposes, 42076.—It had been suggested to Commission that most farms contained an angle of land which could be planted on a shelter belt, 42076.—The operation of the Land Purchase Acts had increased the importance of the question of utilizing turf bog, 42007.

TURF BOGS AND AFForestation.

The origin of the timber underlying turf bogs had never been proved; either the trees grew on the bog land or the bog grew after the trees died down, 42008-13.—At present the bog grew in many places by increase of bog mosses; the western portion of bog was often the highest, 42013.—Soil for could never be grown on deep bogs with financial success unless they were previously drained and manured, and this would be very expensive, 42014.—Witness could not determine whether the charred roots seen in the sunken forests had been charred before or after the destruction of the forests; the destruction of the timber in historic times might have resulted in a great affluence of water from the hills consequent on the denudation of the slopes, and this off-rush would have increased the growth of the bog-land below; there might have been a great change of climate, 42015-6, 42061.—Planting firs helped to keep up the water; firs were planted about waterworks; the French Government spent large sums in acquiring pasture lands to plant them up and cure torrents which carried down stones and debris, 42017.—The fallen leaves took up an immense amount of water, and the leaves stopped some of the rainfall, but the main effects was by the roots, and a deep layer of decaying vegetable matter, sometimes several feet deep, which took up an immense quantity of water, 42028.—Forestry had been successful in European countries on mountain and heath lands; timber could be economically grown on shallow turf bog, though on deep bog the cost of manuring and draining made financial success doubtful; in bog-land generally the acidity and inordinance of the bog substance and absence of mineral nutrients must overcome before plants which strike deep into the soil could thrive; slopes of marines and rocky land were often well suited to tree-planting; Ireland must once have contained vast tracts of natural forest whose restoration would greatly improve the natural drainage of the country; Ireland's total area of turf bog was returned at about 100,000,000 acres, excluding 398,000 acres of marsh and, presumably, all shallow bog or "barren mountain land"; of the 1,100,000 acres only 300,000 were untenanted; according to report of the Bog Commissioners of 1810, six-sevenths of the total area was comprised between two straight lines drawn from Howth Head to Sligo and from Wicklow Head to Galway; the Bog Commissioners' Report of 1814 stated that 1,576,000 acres of Irish peat soil was red flag bog, which might be utilized for agriculture, while much of the mountain could be improved at small expense for pasture or moss

PIGOT, Mr. J. L.—continued.

beneficially for plantations, 42081-3.—Since time of this Bog Commission wonderful results in improving land had been obtained cheaply (as in Luxembourg and Holland) by use of lupines; artificial manures were unknown; turf bogs might be made profitable under agriculture where success in forestry was doubtful, and they should therefore not be planted, 42083.—Lupines increased the quantity of iron nitrogen in the soil and formed a surface mould, 42084-5.—Of the 640,000 acres untenanted land in Ireland some were only temporarily untenanted; 354,000 of the 640,000 acres were mountain land, with an average valuation of 5½d. per acre, and 286,000 were valued at 2½d. 13s. or 8½d. an acre; it had been stated to Select Committee of Forestry, 1887, that immense areas could be acquired for 10s. an acre, and that the people, in Connaught at least, would cheerfully acquiesce in reservation for forestry purposes; the results of witnesses' inquiries were against the view of acquiescence; the real value to the people of this land was, however, often small, and compensation for disturbance would be little; many persons would willingly relinquish their rights enabling them to pasture a few animals over large tracts in exchange for a small area of good land near their homesteads; 301,000 acres of woods and plantations were included in agricultural returns, 95,000 acres being classed as untenanted; it was impossible that all these woods ought to be permanently retained, if Ireland were to have four per cent. of forested land, as the United Kingdom had, the wooded area would have to be 773,000 acres; the 286,000 acres of untenanted land might be acquired for from £100,000 to £250,000; in poor estates in the West owners might be glad to part with mountain for planting if they retained the sporting rights; though large tracts were desirable for forestry, it might be well to begin with small areas of from 500 acres near supplies of labour; additions of even 50 acres to existing plantations might be worth making, 42095, 42110-2.—Western counties offered greatest scope for protection of existing woodlands and reservation of lands for afforestation; administrative counties comprising congested electoral divisions contained nearly one-third the total wooded area of Ireland; about 70 per cent. of the area classed as mountain, and over 80 per cent. of the 286,000 acres of untenanted land valued at not more than 2s. 6d. an acre, 42095.

ROADS TO FORESTS.

Good roads were needed to secure financial success to forestry, and the cost of their construction must be included among initial expenses, 42113-4.

PRICE OF TIMBER.

The constantly increasing price of timber would compensate for cost of roads, 42118.—In England the price of imported timber had increased 20 per cent.; native timber was, if anything, decreasing, 42120-1.—The best wood was a very paying market, but it was necessary to wait more than forty years for the harvest; from the twentieth to the fortieth years there might be two thinnings; felling could be done at the twentieth, thirtieth, and fortieth years, but except from larch not so much could be got from earlier thinnings; hard wood took a hundred years to mature, 42122-3.

Document put in by Mr. J. L. Pigot.

Pamphlet on Working of Land Act of 1903, Part
and its bearing on Tree Cultivation, 337

ROYAL COMMISSION ON CONGESTION IN IRELAND.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

SEVENTY-FIRST PUBLIC SITTING.

THURSDAY, MAY 16TH, 1907.

AT 10.30 O'CLOCK, A.M.,

At the Courthouse, Newry, County Down.

Present:—The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOMER, K.C.M.G. (in the Chair); Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL;
CONOR O'KELLY, Esq., M.P.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. P. O'HARA examined.

34906. Sir JOHN COLOMER.—You are a farmer and District Councillor residing at Mayobridge in the Newry Union?—Yes.

34907. You are well acquainted with the small farmers of the district?—Yes. I know the condition of the small farmers in the district and on the estates of the Marquis of Downshire, Earl Annesley, Mr. Beit, and others, and know that a great deal of the lands in the Parishes of Clonallen, Newry, Killymore, Drumagh, and Clonard should be dealt with as congested, and these lands are in a congested range. There is no land that I know of in this neighbourhood that would be a useful addition to the present holdings. On the Hilltown estate of the Marquis of Downshire, where I live, congestion is felt very much. For instance, in this townland of Bann, where I live, where there were some fourteen tenants, six evictions have taken place, and in the next two townlands, where there is the same landlord, several evictions have been carried out, not for want of industry or energy on the part of the tenants, but because of the non-payment of impossible rents.

34908. What is the extent of your own farm?—At present I farm ten acres.

34909. Do you hold more than one farm?—Not at present, I did.

34910. Have you any other business besides your farm?—I have a fax-cutting mill, and I keep a post-office at Mayobridge and a public-house.

34911. You pay a tribute to the industry of the tenants who were evicted, and say that the evictions were for non-payment of impossible rents?—They were.

34912. Are these judicial tenants?—They are.

34913. Have their rents been fixed in Court?—There have been Commissioners round, but they find the rents at the old figures in some cases.

34914. Then your contention is that the Commissioners have fixed impossible rents?—Quite so.

34915. What is the name of the electoral division in which this took place?—Is the rural district of Clonallen, Union of Newry. The people reclaimed nearly all the land without any assistance from the landlords; indeed I know of my own knowledge that at least 50 per cent. of the rents have been created by the tenants, as the landlords gave no assistance in reclamation. They only made it a point to raise the rent as soon as any improvements were made. If a tenant built a new cottage and tilled his farm well, when the agent or such came round, up went the rent, although in many cases out of 100 this improvement was made by the tenants by money made in America, England, or Scotland—America principally, and if the tenants did not get the money

generally from their sons and daughters abroad they could not pay their rents. May 16, 1907.

34916. Of course, this description of the tenants improving the land and the landlords raising the rents refers to a period prior to the Act of 1881?—Quite so. Mr. P. O'Hara.

34917. When you speak of those times do you refer to a period long prior to the passing of that Act?—Up to the passing of the Act.

34918. Is the Commission to understand that you are referring not only to a period long before the Act, but up to the very passing of the Act?—Up to the very day the Act was passed.

34919. That system was continuous?—It was.

34920. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—In the Clonallen division are many of the holdings small holdings?—Very small.

34921. Perhaps you have a return thereof?—No, I could give you an outline of the valuations. There are several townlands where the valuations are very low. In Corrig, for instance, the average valuation is £4 16s. In the townland of Rymore it is £4 16s. In Letham it is £4 12s. In Tannaherry it is £2 15s. That is excluding the mountain land—and that was never tilled and never can be tilled.

34922. So there is a wide area there with occupiers whose average valuation seems to be under £4?—Yes. In the townland of Ballyvalley the average valuation is £3 1s. The townland belongs in different portions to different landlords. Half of the townland was sold twelve or thirteen years ago at thirteen years' purchase, and I am credibly informed that the landlord of the other portion wants 28 years' purchase of the present holdings.

34923. Are the people who occupy these holdings industrious?—The most industrious people in the world. They go to England and America and they earn the amount of the rent and what helps to keep the families at home.

34924. You say they had done a good deal to redeem their holdings?—Almost all.

34925. Their land is largely reclaimed land?—Almost all.

34926. I suppose it would be difficult for those people in any case to live on the produce of their holdings?—They could not live on their holdings at all without outside help.

34927. That help comes from America, England, and Scotland?—Yes; principally America.

34928. Sons and daughters send home the money?—Yes.

34929. To support the families and pay the rent?—Yes.

34930. If from any cause that outside supply ceased

May 16, 1909.

Mr. P.
O'Han.

to be productive it would not be possible for these people to get out.—The people could not live on the holdings—that is generally.

34931. Have you any suggestion to make to the Commission as to any way in which the means of living could be better secured for those industrious people?—Except there were some industries started, say, woollen manufactories. There should also be a railway made from Newry to Castlewellan. There is a splendid little market about eight Irish miles from here. There are the village of Maybridge and the town of Hilltown, and if there was railway communication joining them with Castlewellan it would do a great deal for the prosperity of the county, which it would open up.

34932. There is no grass land available for the enlargement of the small holdings that you have referred to?—No; nothing except mountains.

34933. In view of what you have told us, that the land is to a large extent reclaimed soil, it would be interesting to compare the poor low valuation of the holdings to which you have referred with the rent?—Yes. The valuation would coincide very much with the present rent.

34934. Do you think could you give us not only the present rent, but the rent before it was reduced?—I could in a great many instances—my own, for example. My own rent for my ten acres was originally £20. It was raised in the '60s to £15. Then I have got two reductions since the passing of the Act of 1881, which have brought it down to £8. When the Act passed I went into Court, and my rent was reduced from £15 to £14. I went into Court a second time, and my rent is now £8.

34935. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—What is your valuation?—My valuation is £10 on land.

34936. In all the figures that the Commission have had before them it is the total that is given. What is your total valuation?—£49 10s.

34937. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—That is largely on houses?—Yes. I would like to explain as to this. In 1866 there was a mill about to be built on a neighbouring estate, within a stone's throw of where I lived myself, and I wanted to know if the agent would give me a lease of my holding if I built a mill on the Marquis of Downshire's property. The agent came to the place. He was a Mr. Barton. He said he would meet me, and if I would build a mill on the Marquis of Downshire's property he would give me a lease. I did so, and after a little while the Marquis of Downshire died. There was a change in the ministry. This agent and another agent were dismissed, I understand. I knew they left, and other agents came in and raised my rent instead of lowering it. I was to get my rent lowered to a reasonable rate and get a lease of my land on account of building the mill. Instead of that I got a rate of 85 a year.

34938. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—You understand that this Commission has really nothing to do with the general administration of the Land Act. What it has been appointed for is to inquire into congestion, and the working of the Congested Districts Board, and the measures to be taken for the relief of congestion, and also whether places not now included as congested should or should not be included. You have given me some interesting particulars with regard to the very low valuation of certain townlands. In what electoral division are these townlands?—Upper Clonalien.

34939. Any other?—There is Warrenpoint rural, of course.

34940. According to the returns before us for the County Down there are only two electoral divisions in the county in which the average Poor Law valuation per head of the population is under thirty shillings, and neither of these is the electoral division you have mentioned.

34941. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—That is quite so. You did not give them by electoral divisions?—I did not.

34942. You did not say that the whole electoral division was rated as low as the average you gave us. You rather particularized townlands?—Quite so, but the whole electoral division is very low.

34943. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—Which electoral division are you going to take?—I am at Upper Clonalien at present.

34944. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—I see from the

returns that the number of holdings under £10 valuation is very large in the electoral division?—Yes.

34945. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—But in Warrenpoint rural, to which you refer, it is very small?—In there are only a few townlands affected there. I don't think I have anything to do with that district however. All the estates sold in this neighbourhood before 1893 sold for from 16 to 36 or 12 years' purchase. I believe some lands have been sold since 1893 for 21 to 24 years' purchase. This is a price they never can or will pay. They have agreed to this in order to ward off present difficulties. The poor people are told they may as well have a year's rent in their pocket as any other, and just add this to the purchase; it is all right for the present. I will know that those who do not get help from outside cannot pay their rents, and I know they are not living as they should, and not getting sufficiently good food or clothing. I must also say they are a most thrifty, hard-working, industrious, bright and cheery people, though so much oppressed.

34946. Take the electoral division of Upper Clonalien, in which there is undoubtedly a very large proportion of holdings not exceeding £4 in valuation, have many estates been sold in that particular electoral division?—Yes.

34947. Was there no land on those estates available for enlarging the holdings?—None.

34948. Therefore we are not to understand you to complain that these estates have been sold and that thereby the local relief of congestion has been made impossible; we are only to understand from what you have said that in your opinion the tenants have had to pay too high an amount?—Quite so. That is particularly the case since 1893.

34949. That, of course, is outside our province. But looking at the question you bring before us from the point of view of this Commission, which is concerned only with the relief of congestion in those districts, would the commission, from the low valuation in the districts you have referred to, be that there should be migration from those places to some other district?—Quite so; if it was possible.

34950. If the congestion in the particular district to which you refer, be it great or small, has to be relieved, it must be relieved by removing some of the people in the congested areas to other districts; is that the position?—Yes.

34951. Do you consider that this is generally the position in this district in which we are now sitting, that while there may be a good deal of congestion, it cannot be relieved except by a scheme of migration to some other part of the county or some other part of Ireland?—Yes; unless that some industries are started.

34952. I was referring to the enlargement of holdings?—It could not be done except by removing to some other places.

34953. Then, in your view, relief can only be afforded by the promotion of industries?—Yes.

34954. What sort of industries have you got in your mind?—Woollen factories, for instance. There are large tracts of mountain where sheep are penned, and wool could be got.

34955. If that industry would pay why is it not started?—I think that no one has sufficient capital to start it in the county.

34956. Do you mean to say that in the North of Ireland no one has sufficient capital to start an industry that will pay?—In this district that I speak of, no one.

34957. Money goes wherever there is money to be made. It does not stick to artificial boundaries of districts?—As a rule, that is so.

34958. Money goes to any district where it will bring a profit?—I could not say that as far as this district is concerned.

34959. Do you recognise that to carry out such a policy as yours you would have to apply public money to the starting of an industry?—Quite so.

34960. Is the Commission to understand that you go so far as to say that the Congested Districts Board, or some other authority should spend public money on starting an industry?—Yes.

34961. As a business man, do you not see the great difficulties in and grave objections to State money being used to start an industry to compete with other industries that have not the assistance of State money?—Yes. I see the difficulty, but it was hoped that your Commission might be able to overcome it.

and also buy the land from the landlords of congested estates at its value only.

34062. I think his lordship, the Bishop, who is a very distinguished member of the Congested Districts Board, will tell you that they have already got so many demands upon them to meet existing requirements that there will be very great difficulty first of all in getting the money, and that in the second place there is always the question of interfering with and competing against the private trader—it would not interfere with the private trader in this neighbourhood.

34063. I will put it to you practically. You have a scutching mill?—Yes.

34064. Would you approve of the Government coming in as an adjoining place and spending money on starting a scutching mill to compete successfully against yours and then, perhaps, shut it up? Would you think it a good plan?—That would be an impossible plan. There are scores of mills shut up that are available if necessary, but it would not pay to run them.

34065. Take your own business. Do you think that public money would be judiciously or rightly applied to kill your industry by enabling State-aided competitors to undersell you?—I think it would if it would serve the general good.

34066. You would be content to be a martyr?—I would not be a martyr, but I believe if it would serve the general public good it should be done.

34067. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell. You may depend on it that the questions which Sir John has put to you are put with the object of seeing what could be done to improve the industrial conditions of poor communities, such as you have described?—I am quite sure that is so.

34068. You would not advocate the establishment of an industry that ultimately would not have the prospect of living on a commercial basis?—Quite so; that would not have the prospect of succeeding. Certainly not.

34069. When one looks at the return it is very plain that in many of the electoral divisions of the Kerry district, and notably Clonsilla Upper, to which you have referred, the number of holdings under £4 valuation is very large. For instance, in Clonsilla Upper it is one-fourth of all the holdings, and the number of holdings under £10 valuation would be three-fourths of all the holdings?—Yes.

34070. You did not hold out any prospect to Sir John that the land could be improved in any way to enable the occupiers to live by it?—I don't see how it can be improved much. It would be very little if anything.

34071. Therefore, unless industries of some kind are developed the people cannot live on the land, except in case they are migrated?—That is so, and the rent must be reduced.

34072. Migration, to a different part of Ireland did not occur to you?—It did.

34073. What would the people think of it?—I believe a great number of smart, industrious young men would be very glad to migrate to Meath, Westmeath, or such places, that is to say if four or six of them, with their wives and families, went together to different farms in the same district, but they would not like to go one here and another there.

34074. That would be one way of relieving congestion—if several of the small occupiers migrated in groups to where there would be room for them?—To support them.

34075. The land vacated by these people would be given for the enlargement of neighbouring holdings?—Quite so.

34076. That occurs to you as a possible way of enabling people to live by land?—Quite so.

34077. Apart from land the only thing that occurs to you as industries?—Yes.

34078. What kind of industry had you specially before your mind?—The woollen industry.

34079. I suppose it is your opinion that there should be a careful investigation before public money is expended in starting an industry of that kind?—Quite so.

34080. The body asked to start the industry should inquire whether, everything considered, there was a prospect of that industry living in the locality?—Yes, certainly.

34081. What you would put before the Commission is this, that a body dealing with congestion, finding that around Hiltown and in the Clonsilla division

there are so many small occupiers, should make a careful investigation to find out if it is possible to start an industry that would live; that is your point?—Yes.

34082. You would not say that the industry should be started irrespective of the prospect of its continuing?—By no means.

34083. Would you therefore, to some extent, modify your answer to Sir John by saying that your suggestion as to a public subsidy to enable an industry to be started would be limited to the cases in which, owing to unfavourable circumstances the industry does not now flourish, but in which, if a good start were made, there would be a reasonable prospect of the industry thriving?—Quite right.

34084. You would not go beyond that?—I would not go beyond that.

34085. Sir John O'Sullivan.—You are an experienced farmer?—I was in my juvenile days.

34086. As a general rule in this district which you know so well what proportion of the land of the farms may be taken to be under tillage?—Three-fourths of the land is in tillage.

34087. That is approximately, of course?—Yes.

34088. You mean three-fourths of the land is not for agricultural purposes is tilled?—Quite so; leaving out mountain tracts here and there.

34089. I am talking of land suitable for tillage?—Three-fourths or four-fifths of it is in tillage.

34090. The land is poor land?—Very poor.

34091. If it was not kept in tillage and well farmed I suppose that there would be very little profit to be got out of the land?—The farms are rather small.

34092. The nature of the land is such that to keep it in order and get the produce out of it it cannot be kept in grass, but must be continually tilled and well tilled?—Yes. It would not produce grass more than three years. Moss would rise on it. It must be tilled every three years at so.

34093. When you speak of the competition in this part of the country I would like to know have you ever been in Mayo, West Galway, or in the Western portions of the Bishop's own counties in Donegal?—No; but I have been in Kerry lately.

34094. In what part of Kerry?—I have been through a good deal of it. I believe it is something similar to Donegal, but on our own land, from all I can understand, is a great deal like Donegal and Mayo. I hope you will have an opportunity of seeing Clonsilla, Clonsilla, and Drungall parishes. I don't think that anything in Mayo or Donegal is worse.

34095. Taking this district and the large proportion of tillage, what would you say would be a fair standard, either in valuation or acreage, of what would constitute an economic holding; what would you say roughly would be the valuation or acreage of a farm by which an ordinary family could live?—An acreage of twenty acres, and a valuation of £10 would be a very high valuation of that class of land.

34096. Do you consider that you could take it to be an economic holding if it cannot be worked with a horse?—No; I do not.

34097. Would you take the farm that is capable of keeping and using a horse as a rough standard of an economic holding?—Yes.

34098. Below that you would say broadly that a holding would not be economic?—I would.

34099. Mr. O'Keefe.—You say that there are so many you know of in this neighbourhood that would be a useful addition to the present holdings. How do you propose to remedy congestion in this case?—By the starting of industries, and the construction of a railway from Newry to Castlewellan to open up the country.

35000. What would be the effect of the railway?—It would open up the country and the people would have facilities for sending their produce to Newry market. Newry is the market town here.

35001. You mean that the people in the congested districts would have the opportunity of sending their produce to Newry?—Quite so.

35002. Do you think that, if they had such an opportunity, it would mitigate their congestion?—Yes, very much.

35003. You have considered the possibility of a scheme of migration?—Yes. I think that if it was possible to migrate the people in batches it would be a good thing.

35004. Where would you propose to migrate them?—I had Meath and Westmeath in my mind.

May 16, 1907.

Mr. F. O'Meara.

May 16, 1907
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35006. Do you know the character of the soil in Meath?—I know it is good as a rule. There is splendid pasture land there.

35007. Do you think, taking it all in all, that it is good for tillage?—Really I don't know, but I supposed it was. I went through it and thought that it would make magnificent tillage land if it was tilled.

35008. Would your remark that it would make excellent tillage land apply to the whole County of Meath?—I don't pretend to be an expert, but I thought it was magnificent land and that if it was well tilled it would give very good results.

35009. Have you ever heard it suggested that the land is more suitable for grazing than for tillage?—I heard so.

35010. Because of the heavy soil it would be hard to till?—I heard that.

35011. You think that after a while that could be got over?—Yes.

35012. The difficulty would only occur for the first year or two?—That is my impression.

35013. Have you got any experience of schemes of migration?—None.

35014. Do you think some of the farmers of the districts to which you refer, if migrated in batches, would have any great objection to go to the County Meath?—I don't believe that they would have any.

35015. Have you ever inquired?—I made a few inquiries.

35016. What was the answer?—They said, that if migrated in batches of five or six at a time, they would go. They would not go individually.

35017. So that the relationship would be continued?—Quite so; and for fear that some people in the neighbourhood to which they were sent might think they were intruding, but they would not like to go individually.

35018. To the County Meath?—To any county.

35019. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell:—A moment ago you seemed to me to give a very interesting reply to our Chairman about the proportion of land under tillage on the farms in the County Down. On tillage farms, I think, you said that more than three-fourths would be under tillage?—Yes. Four-fifths would be under tillage as a rule.

35020. I am sure that the Commission would be interested to hear from you what the rotation of crops is from year to year in the County Down?—The rotation of crops is potatoes, oats and hay.

35021. With grass seed?—Yes; laid down with grass seed. It is pasture for three years. Then it necessarily must be ploughed up or it grows over with moss.

35022. Would not the first year of the three years be rather a plain hay, and the other two years pasture?—Quite so.

35023. At the end of the three years what do they do with the land?—Plough it again.

35024. What goes into it again?—Oats.

35025. Would it then be flax after that?—In some parts of the land. In the poorer districts at least they are obliged to sow the flax where large farmers as a rule cannot afford to sow flax. It won't pay. The cost would overcome the profit; labour is so hard to get and the price of flax is not very high, so that it would not pay the decent farmer to sow flax. It is among the small farms that flax is grown principally. Then the rotation is oats, flax, potatoes, oats, hay and pasture for two years.

35026. That would make a seven year's rotation?—Yes.

35027. The other rotation is a six year's rotation?—Yes. The other rotation is the general rotation. For the last ten years the flax industry has ceased in a great measure. It is better this year. There is more sown this year than there has been for ten years.

35028. Then you say to the Commission that in good tillage farms precisely the whole of the land is going through that rotation?—Quite so; on good tillage farms except flax. On good tillage farms they don't sow flax as a rule for the last twenty years.

35029. In the County Down, on the average farm, there does not appear to be much land permanently under grass?—There is none, except some low meadow here and there. There is none in this neighbourhood whatever.

35030. Sir JOHN CONNELL:—Take an average farm of twenty acres, what stock is kept?—There are four milch cows, and three or four or six or eight young

stock, year-old or two-year-old heifers or bullocks, as the case may be, and a horse.

35031. If four-fifths of the land is in tillage will the remaining grass and bog keep that quantity of stock on a 20-acre farm?—With oats and hay in a tillage farm grass comes in rotation usually about half of the farm.

35032. I observe that the only crop you mention is hay?—I should have mentioned that they sow turnips, but not the one-sixth of them now turnips in the places I have mentioned.

35033. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell:—Are you saying that with reference to the poorer electoral divisions, or to the condition of the county generally?—The poorer electoral divisions.

35034. Sir JOHN CONNELL:—You are speaking of the particular districts you have in your mind's eye as congested?—Yes; these mountain ranges.

35035. On these farms of about £10 valuation how long do the farmers keep their young stock?—They are principally sold as year-olds.

35036. I suppose that they are bought by the people who have large grazing farms?—They are principally taken to England and Scotland.

35037. Mostly direct?—Mostly direct.

35038. As yearlings?—Yes; from Newry.

35039. Do you mean to say that the yearlings go direct to England or Scotland?—They do.

35040. That is because they are near the port?—Yes. Newry is the port.

35041. Taking the total number of cattle exported from Newry, do you mean to say that the greater proportion are only yearlings?—No. I believe that the greater proportion of those cattle exported are two-year-olds and over, but they are bought and sold. Some farmers are larger than others and buy from the small men. For instance, farmers in the County Meath come down here and buy yearlings and bring them up and so on, but thousands of year-olds go over to England.

35042. Speaking generally, do you think that if there were no grazing farms in Ireland at all, and if there was no outlet for yearlings except the English and Scotch market that the small holders would be able to live?—No; I do not. I am sure they could not live without outside aid.

35043. At present, as I understand you, the average small holder really cannot keep his stock on his farm much over a year old?—He cannot.

35044. It is a matter of life and death to him that there should be a market for yearlings?—Quite so.

35045. But the market, of course, is partly England and Scotland, and partly Ireland?—Yes; England and Scotland in nine cases out of ten.

35046. Do you know that the returns show that yearlings form a very small percentage of the total stock exported from Ireland to Great Britain?—I do not.

35047. Does not that mean that a very large percentage of the yearlings must be kept in Ireland?—Yes; but those are the large farmers.

35048. Then supposing that a policy of cutting up and doing away with all the grazing farms was adopted, so you or do you not think that it might inflict a terrible injury upon the small holders all over Ireland who cannot keep their stock over a year?—Undoubtedly it might.

35049. You recognise the gravity of the question that I put to you?—Yes.

35050. Mr. O'CONNOR:—You say that the small farmer cannot keep his stock over a year old?—Generally speaking.

35051. Would you elaborate that statement; why not?—They are so very poor that when they bring the stock up to a year old they must sell. They have their little households to keep up and they must sell for the want of money.

35052. They have not sufficient land?—They have not sufficient land and they have not sufficient money to buy food and pay the rent, and they are obliged to sell.

35053. Suppose the conditions were different would you modify your answer to Sir John that to do away with the grazing farms would be a calamity. Suppose they had the money and the land would you still say that to do away with the grazing farms would be a national calamity?—It would be a benefit to have them tilled.

35054. If the people themselves got the land do you still think that the greater would be an economic necessity in the country?—The very people who now

raise them would go to Meath and Westmeath and such places, and that would relieve the congestion here, so that those left behind could live better, and the migrants would till the grazing ranches.

35055. Suppose you were to migrate from your district a large number of farmers, handing over the land they leave after them to those who would remain, do you think then that they would be able to keep their cattle until they were 1½ or 2 years old?—In a great measure. The farms at home would be enlarged, and therefore they could keep more stock and keep them longer.

35056. Then would I carry you with me this far, that if you were to put the small men where the greater is now they would be able to do the work that the greater and the small man are doing together?—They would help to do so. They would relieve the small farmers at home by leaving their holdings to be joined on to others, and I suppose if they got farms at all in these places it would be farms that they could live on and thrive, that is to say, farms of twenty or thirty acres, and they would require, perhaps, an occasional change of stock and to sell off the fat cattle where they can fatten the cattle, and they would require to come down here occasionally to buy some young stock.

35057. Have you heard it suggested before this Commission by witnesses whose names carry authority on the subject, that if the grazing lands now in the hands of graziers were handed over to the small men it would be an advantage that the graziers should disappear, because they are at the present moment in the position of middlemen taking middlemen's profit; do you agree with that statement?—Yes.

35058. Do you believe that to be consistent with your answer to Sir John Colborne?—I believe it to be consistent with the general welfare of the people.

35059. You say that the small farmers cannot keep the stock longer than a year?—The general run.

35060. And you urge in support of that view the want of capital and the insufficiency of the holdings?—Quite so.

35061. Suppose the holdings were sufficient instead of being insufficient would they be able to keep their stock longer?—They would certainly.

35062. Therefore you would to that extent modify your answer to Sir John Colborne that the disappearance of the grazer would be a calamity?—Quite so.

35063. There are 526 holdings under £4 valuation in the Newry Union. You have 1,283 under £10

valuation. Are any of the occupiers of these engaged in other industries besides agriculture?—Some of them go to sea for a season and they are called fishermen when they are at sea. They go to fish while the crops are in the ground.

35064. So a large number of them are fishermen, and people engaged in other pursuits besides farming?—Yes; anything and everything to make money to keep up the farm.

35065. Which would you call them fishermen or farmers?—I would call them farmers. They farm nine months of the year and fish about three. They go round to the North of England.

35066. Are the fishermen farmers or fishermen?—They are farmers' sons. They go to sea as fishermen for three or four months in the summer. Sometimes they take a run to America, or go to Liverpool and work in the Liverpool docks, and take every chance to make money.

35067. What is the average size of the holdings in the Newry Union?—The average size would be about ten acres.

35068. Sir John Colborne.—I suppose I may take it from you that the larger the farm the larger the stock may be kept?—Yes, as a rule, but where there is a very large farm along these mountain districts they are just as poor as the small farmers, because they cannot afford latterly to pay labour.

35069. Do large farmers, who farm about 100 acres, keep their stock on and finish them?—Some of the farmers on the better land finish them, but along these mountain ranges they cannot finish them at all.

35070. Mountain range grazing is another question altogether. What I am asking about is ordinary arable land. Take farmers of 100 acres. Do they find it more profitable so, and do they actually finish their stock? Do they breed them, mature them, and finish them?—They do.

35071. Do fifty-acre farmers do it?—They do; and thirty-acre farmers do it; that is to say, on the good lands.

35072. But you tell the Commission that in this district, which you know well, the thirty-acre farmer not only produces his stock but matures it and finishes it?—Quite so.

35073. Is the process of finishing house-dreding?—House-feddng.

35074. On the large farms also would you say that four-fifths of the land is in tillage?—I would.

REV. ANDREW LEWIS, examined.

35075. Sir John Colborne.—You are stationed at Leitrim, Castlewellan, County Down?—Yes.

35076. Would you kindly mention to the Commissioners any points you desire to bring before them?—I am of opinion that the Downshire estate and Bally estate, bordering the Mourne mountains, and stretching inland for many miles round Hilltown, Maybridge, and Killybeg, also the Annesley estate around Castlewellan and Leitrim, should be scheduled as "congested districts." Since 1880 I have been closely connected with the tenants on these estates, and can bear out the following facts:—The three or four years prior to 1879, a very large percentage of the farmers all along the Mourne mountains were in a very poor condition, so much so that many of them had to get charitable relief from public sources, notably from what was known at the time as the Keshmarr Relief Fund. In 1882 more than half of the tenants on the Downshire (Hilltown) estate, and on the Bally and other properties were found deeply in arrears. The year the Arrears Act became law so widespread was the poverty of these poor tenants that we procured a sitting in Hilltown for the administration of the Arrears Act. Many of these poor people were three, five, and seven years in arrears. Mr. Burrell, an excellent Protestant gentleman from Killybeg, was sent down by the Controller of the Arrears Court in Dublin, as investigator. He presided over the Arrears Court in Hilltown, and took over a week to get through all the evidence of the poor people whose names appeared on the Arrears Act list. The agents on the Downshire, Bally, and other properties opposed the claims of their tenants to get the benefits of this timely Act of relief, and hence the investigator had to go through every case

and examine it on its own merits. I can well remember the sad and painful evidence these poor people unfolded to the Court as to their condition, the amount of money they owed to shopkeepers, loan and other banks, and the little assets they had on their farms. After the fourth day of investigation, the investigator was so overwhelmed with such a pitiful tale from the tenants of the entire district that he was forced to declare in open Court that the tenants on these estates were in a hopeless state of bankruptcy. After this public declaration of the investigator as to the utter helplessness of these poor tenants, the land agents withdrew themselves and their books and did not put in an appearance for the last few days that the Court sat. Not a single tenant on these estates was to be found who did not get his arrears blotted out. Notwithstanding that relief and the partial relief they have received under the Act of 1881, they are to this day unable to meet their liabilities by reason of the low price of all agricultural produce, and the keen competition from other and more favourable countries, and the poor rocky barren land, which if an honest impartial inspector could see it he would naturally ask, "How do they live at all?" And this is in the Province of Ulster.

35077. Kindly tell us in what unions are these districts you refer to as the districts around Hilltown, Maybridge, and Killybeg?—They go into four unions. Hilltown probably is in the Newry Union. Maybridge is also in the Newry Union. Killybeg district is in the Killybeg Union, and the Annesley estate around Castlewellan is in the Banbridge Union, the guardians of which have asked us to represent them.

35078. The facts you have detailed to us are facts within your own memory and knowledge?—Yes. I was

Rev. Andrew Lewis.

May 16, 1907.

Mr. Arthur
Lowry.

born in the district, and have been stationed for twenty-seven years in the midst of the people.

35077. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—In all those districts you have mentioned it is plain from the returns that there is a large number of small holdings—Yes; a very large number.

35078. From your statement to the Commission it is obvious that before the passing of the Arrears Act a large number of the small holders were in serious difficulties—Yes.

35079. Do you remember how that Act worked out in their case; did they all get the benefit of it?—Yes, though under very great difficulty; for the payment of the November gale of 1881 was a consideration of taking the advantage of the Act, and they had to write to several of their friends in Liverpool to get the year's rent to qualify them. The Downshires are not represented by the family for the last thirty or forty years. The business is all conducted by agents. The agent, who is now dead, undertook to forgive the year's rent to a large number of the poorer tenants in order that advantage might be taken of the Act and that the landlord might get the two years' rent from the British Treasury.

35080. The tenant has to provide one year's rent and public funds provided a second year's rent.—The tenant had to pay the gale of rent due in November, 1881; the landlord got two years' rent, and whatever arrears the tenant was in in excess of these payments were blotted out.

35081. What was the amount of public money advanced to finance the Act; was it £700,000?—It was a very large sum.*

35082. Sir JAMES CONNOLLY.—These holdings you refer to are more or less on the mountains?—They are along the hills, hills that were reclaimed by these tenants' forefathers, who were driven up these hills while the better lands below were occupied by English and Scotch settlers.

35083. These tenants you mention got the weight of arrears taken off them and so got a fresh start.—According to my evidence they were greatly in debt to banks and loan societies.

35084. As far as rents are concerned they started afresh?—Yes.

35085. Since then we have had the Land Court operating to reduce rents?—These small holders got only a small percentage of their rent. They were too poor to contest their cases in court, and signed voluntary agreements to get some relief.

35086. Do you consider that although the rent debt was disposed of by the arrears being taken off, and although there were reductions of rent made since, the general indebtedness of the small holders in this district is now greater or less than it was before?—I believe they are in an equally bad condition now as they were then notwithstanding the Arrears Act relief.

35087. When you talk of the rent being earned away in England and Scotland and elsewhere, do you mean that the sons have to go away, or that it is the actual tenants have to go away to earn the rent?—It happens in both cases. Sometimes the father may have a very small farm, and he leaves the wife and children in care of the little home and he goes away himself. If he has a son who grows up to manhood the firm mission of that son will be to the docks of Liverpool or the mines of Scotland.

35088. Would you say that the majority of the heads of families don't migrate?—I don't believe there would be 10 per cent. whose rent is not met from external sources.

35089. But it is the heads of the families or the younger members who, as a rule, migrate to earn money to pay the rent?—If the families are small the father goes himself and leaves his wife to get some neighbour to put in the little crop and mind the little children, and when the sons grow up they go out themselves and take the father's place.

35090. But in the case of the small holders, when the children are young the father goes?—Yes.

35091. But as the children grow up and are able to earn their living they bring in money for the rent to these homes?—Yes.

35092. Do you think that the general indebtedness of the population is a very great evil, and is diminishing in every sense of the word to the people?—If it comes about by their own fault. But I believe in the case of the fine enterprising tenants of all persuasions you have along the mountain coast of Down that is in

not their fault, but is due to the hard times, the speculation from abroad, and the low prices of agricultural produce which have militated against them.

35093. I suppose that the average of shop debts is very high?—It is very easy increasing it, because it is the thing they would have to fall back upon when they are in want. The shopkeepers are very good to them, but they have to meet it some day.

35094. They have to be out of their money, and must necessarily charge high interest?—It is to be hoped that they would not fairly and justly to the poor people.

35095. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You say that there was a great deal of opposition on the part of the agents on the estates to which you refer to the application of the Arrears Act?—Very serious opposition indeed.

35096. Do you think could they have meant to pervert in that opposition? You state later on that they abandoned that opposition?—In the first place they undertook to forgive the very poor tenants the year's rent. Three days notice to the Act cutting into operation the people received a letter from the agent stating that on further consideration, as the tenants were getting such benefits under the Arrears Act, he could not see his way to forgive the year's rent, and therefore they would have to pay the gale due in November, 1881. We had only three days to collect from £100 to £150 for the poorer tenants, but knowing the advantages that would accrue from applying the Act, and the disadvantages that would result from not applying, friends and others helped, and we were able to have money lodged in Rathfriland Bank on the evening prior to the day for the administration of the Act.

35097. An organised public effort was made to make up a year's rent in order to get the Act put in force?—Yes; in order to qualify the tenants to take advantage of it.

35098. If the Act had not been applied, do you think that it is as all likely that the owners of these properties would have got two years' rent from these people?—They could not have got it because we had several evictions afterwards. The landlord lost seriously over it. He was obliged to put them back, because no one would take the place.

35099. Don't you think it was a good thing for the owners of properties, such as these, that the Act was put in operation?—Yes. It was a greater advantage to the landlord than to the tenant, because he got his two years' rent paid over to him.

35100. It enabled this £700,000 to pass practically in the payment of rent?—Yes.

35101. After the Act was put in force how were these tenants able to get on?—They were living then under what we call the Stampation Act of 1881. There was a court that they could appeal to in reference to their rents. But though in a sense it was a relief to these poor tenants that they could not be evicted from their homes they were still saddled with debt to the shopkeepers, and the evidence unfolded to the court showed the investigator that they were in a state of bankruptcy.

35102. I suppose their indebtedness to shopkeepers and others was a serious obstacle to their making a fresh start after the application of the Arrears Act?—Quite true.

35103. Then, I suppose that the holdings are so poor that it would be difficult to live by them in any case?—Yes. It would be impossible to live by them even if there was no rent. Now, as to the sale of the Downshire property. Negotiations for sale have been going on for the past twelve months on the Hilltown mountain estate, between Lord Arthur Hill, his agent, and the tenants, and the purchase price demanded by them is twenty-four and a half years' purchase plus the bonus. The tenants on the twelve townlands that adjoin the mountain have sent a memorial to the Estates Commissioners stating that they are quite unable to pay such a price.

35104. Sir James Connolly.—Negotiations have been going on between Lord Arthur Hill and the tenants?—Between the trustees of Lord Downshire and the tenants.

35105. Of course if the tenants don't agree and won't sign agreements there is an end of the matter, but you say here that they have written to the Estates Commissioners?—Yes. It was necessary. There was portion of the Hilltown estate comprising two or three townlands lying in the rich part of Down.

* Note by Secretary.—The total amount actually paid out of the Irish Church Fund under the Act was £490,875 8s. 7d., of which £475,720 10s. 2d. was free grant towards cancellation of arrears of rent.

35106. Were the tenants willing to buy?—They signed agreements, and the agent, Mr. Maude, endeavoured to get them made a separate estate and to entitle the 1,000 or 1,200 mountain farmers in what we hope will be designated as a congested district.

35107. The policy of Lord Arthur Hill, as you understood it, was to sell on those terms, but only on a portion of the estate, and he wished to get the Estates Commissioners to declare that portion an "estate" in order to get the bonus on that portion?—Yes.

35108. That the tenants on the poorer portion who did not agree to those terms were afraid of being included?—They were afraid because there was a very serious notice sent from the agent to say that those few hundreds who did sign hoped to make them a separate estate, and calling upon the poorer tenants to pay up the arrears and the year's rent. Let me say, now, how the estate in this same congested area were bought under the Ashbourne Act within the last few years. Six separate estates were sold in this district. I negotiated three of them. One of them at thirteen years' purchase with five years' arrears blotted out, and the others at fifteen years' purchase, and none of the six estates brought more than sixteen years' purchase. The estate which was sold for thirteen years' purchase comprised much better land than the Hilltown estate for which twenty-four and a half years' purchase was asked, and bordered this same estate. There is no unimproved land bordering or near this poor mountain land. These poor people, if I dare to refer to the past history, were driven up to the mountains in those hard and trying times, and the good low-lying land of which they were dispossessed is now all occupied for the most part by Scotch and English settlers, from the time of James the First. Now, the question arises, how, or in what way, can the Congested Districts Board or the Government improve the condition of these people now living on these unimproved holdings? I would respectfully suggest: Let the same system be at once removed and inspection be established and a compulsory clause enacted, and then let these poor people become sole owners at a just and fair price, and having thus done there is a splendid opening for suitable industries to be set on foot by the Congested Districts Board or a friendly Government, and local effort, I presume, will not be wanting to sustain them.

35109. Mr. O'KEEFE.—The district to which you refer is congested but not scheduled?—Yes.

35110. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Does this particular district to which you refer comprise all the electoral divisions you have given or only some of them?—This portion of which I am now speaking is the Hilltown estate, and part of Eilkeon, and part of Maybridge. These are the places I am more familiar with.

35111. Mr. O'KEEFE.—What are the average size of the holdings there?—Between 24 and 26 valuation, or from five to eight and ten acres.

35112. These people are living in considerable poverty?—They are living in hardship.

35113. Do you think it would be wise to make them owners of these small farms without any additions being made to the farms?—I believe that if they could have them on the terms given under the Ashbourne Act with industries that might be established—

35114. We will come in a moment to industries. They are speculative and comparatively remote. Do you think that, if these small farmers got their holdings for nothing, their condition would be appreciably improved?—It would be a relief, and I believe that when they are free from the system under which they have groined so long they would make even greater efforts, though they are making efforts at present.

35115. Do you think it would ever be possible, by any industry, to earn a decent living by working five or six acres of land of the kind you have described?—I believe if they got reasonable terms of purchase, with the same going elsewhere to earn money to pay the instalments, and with the industries it might. You said that the industries were speculative. There were a great number of industries along this district in former times. They disappeared owing to the absence of transit facilities, and the facilities given to foreign competition, but the people are a bold peasantry, and I believe that they would struggle to make ends meet, and would help in many ways.

35116. Suppose that the small farmer with five or six acres had to depend entirely on the land, and that there were no other source of revenue open to

him, could he make a decent living or livelihood on those five or six acres?—I don't believe that by itself the little farm would be able to keep himself and his family. There should be some external means.

35117. Therefore, leaving aside the question of industries for the moment, you must look to schemes of migration; that is to say if you have forty small farmers in a certain place you would have to take twenty of them out of it, and give the land which they vacate to the twenty who remain?—Of course, as there is no possibility of their migrating to the lands that they were dispossessed of they would have to leave their own country.

35118. You say that there is no possibility of the people getting back to the land from which they were driven in times past?—No. No one would dream of it.

35119. Why should not you dream of it?—They are in the possession of others.

35120. The grazing lands are in the possession of others?—There are no grazing lands.

35121. Are those farms from which the people were driven in the last times residential farms now?—They are agricultural farms.

35122. Run by Scotch and English settlers?—Yes. I believe that they are struggling as much as the people on the mountain lands at present.

35123. Therefore, if there is no possibility of getting any of this land back, and if you desire to have congestion removed you must look elsewhere for the necessary means?—I believe there are great means in the facilities given by the Bann, which runs through this district. There were bleaching greens and other means of livelihood in the days gone by, and these, if recovered, would bring to the doors of these people a means of employment without taking them away. Mr. O'Hara referred to Meath. I would be sorry if the fine farmers of Down, which is the Yorkshire of Ireland, had to go to Meath.

35124. Surely if they have not enough land to carry on with in the County Down would not it be better for the country and better for themselves that they should go to better land elsewhere?—It may or may not. We have strong hope in this friendly Commission leading to a revival of industries that would help these people along the mountain sides.

35125. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—You have an objection to the removal of people from the County Down to other counties or parts of Ireland?—I would not like it.

35126. Take this particular estate that the trustees are dealing with. You can correct me if I am wrong, but the impression you gave me was that there is a great estate consisting of two portions. One is made of big farms of good land and the other of small holdings of mountainous land. In former times, you say, the people were driven off the good lands on to these poor lands?—Yes.

35127. Suppose the Congested Districts Board had authority to deal with this particular district, and suppose they bought this estate with a view to re-arranging it, would you say it would be their duty to take the land compulsorily from the big farmers on the lower lands in order to improve the position of the small farmers on the upper lands?—That would be a very bad process. It would be a serious thing even to dream of that.

35128. I understand you to say you would like the Congested Districts Board to have power to deal with this district. Here is an estate where, according to your account, there are many big farms of good land, and also a lot of small holdings, with land of bad quality, who cannot live on their holdings. If you were a member of the Congested Districts Board would you regard it as a possible programme to take land compulsorily from the occupiers of the good land, in order to give larger and better holdings to the small holders who now occupy the poor lands?—Some of these gentlemen on the good lands think they have little enough. I don't think I would interfere with them.

35129. Therefore, it appears to me that in your view all that the Congested Districts Board could do would be to give these holdings at a less rent, but allow them to remain uneconomic as they are?—They must cease to be uneconomic in a sense if they got good purchase terms. There is good employment in the neighbourhood. There is fine water power on the Bann, and

May 16, 1902.
Rev Andrew
Lewy.

May 18, 1907.
Rev. Andrew
Lowry.

they might have bleaching greens as they had in former days.

35130. I am taking you as an eminent authority on the actual needs of the district about which you are so anxious. I gather from you that the programme of enlarging the small holdings at the expense of the big holdings on this property is an impossible one?—In my opinion it is.

35131. Therefore, your remedy centres itself down to this that the best thing that can be done with these holdings would be to give them at a reduced annuity?—Yes.

35132. What are we to understand is the average valuation or rental of the holdings of which you have been speaking?—The valuations average from £4 to £8. They are all under £10. They would embrace 300 or 400 holdings.

35133. To illustrate what you mean, let me take the case of a farm with a rent of £8. When you come to deal with annuities the question is one merely of shillings?—Yes.

35134. You say that if a man has a family, a reduction of ten shillings on a rent of £8 would really enable him to live one whit better?—In the first place his security is greater when he is sole owner. In the second place even ten shillings is a consideration to a poor family. Although it is a small thing to those with large means, yet to poor people it is something.

35135. Say that the man's rent is £8, and you give him a reduction of 50 per cent., that would make his rent £2 10s. Do you mean to say if the £8 holding is given such that the fact of reducing the rent to £2 10s. will make the holding an economic holding, on which he can live?—I believe it would give him great encouragement, and I believe he would be able if he got that substantial reduction on the purchase with the efforts he would make, perhaps, to work the land even better than he is. I am sure they are working it for all it is worth they would stop probably more at home to work it better and to increase the produce.

35136. I may say frankly that I cannot believe that the number of shillings I have mentioned taken off the rent would make the difference between an economic and an uneconomic holding. Putting that by, I come to your point that the security of tenure under a system of purchasing ownership would give that man an impetus to exert himself more and do more with the land?—Undoubtedly.

35137. Therefore, I take it from you that a great deal more might be made out of the land?—Yes, because at present they have to get ahead more or less to make a livelihood, and if they got the encouragement they might stick longer at home to work the farm in order to make it more productive.

35138. Take a £8 holding with a family of four or five girls and boys. Do you mean to say that a reduction of even 50 per cent. in the rent of that holding would make these boys and girls remain at home?—I would not ask them to remain at home if they could find work in other ways to benefit themselves so long as the instalments were paid.

35139. There are two aspects of the question—the effect on the holder himself and the effect in keeping the young and the strong of the population at home. I ask you, for that reason, do you think that even a reduction of 50 per cent. on a £8 holding would make any of the boys or girls stop at home?—It is wonderful how they can live on some of these small holdings, and how they have lived in the past when they were pressed down and compelled to struggle.

35140. Following up the assumption that the Congested Districts Board are ready to deal with this district, you would lay great stress on the improvement of the holdings by the exertions of the men themselves?—Yes.

35141. Would they require instructors for that purpose?—There have been instructors for the last few years from Sir Horace Plunkett's Department, but they do not reach the people.

35142. I am assuming that all that you desire was carried out and that the Congested Districts Board had to deal with this district; would you say that in order to improve the holdings it would be necessary for the Congested Districts Board to have an instructor in the locality to encourage and teach the people how to improve their farms?—Yes; undoubtedly. Once they have got their homes brought

out they are open to improvement by up-to-date and scientific means.

35143. You think that there would be a necessity for such instruction?—They are extremely intelligent people in their little homes, and when the instructors come, some of them could nearly instruct the instructors sometimes.

35144. Am I to understand that they are so intelligent and know so much about farming that they don't require instruction?—I would not say that, but I do say that the small farmers in the County Down are very intelligent, and have a large amount of information that you would be surprised at.

35145. You have given your views about the land. Do you or do you not consider that in order to keep healthy young people at home something more than that is necessary?—Yes.

35146. Your proposition then would be the encouragement of industries by the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

35147. What sort of industries have you in your mind?—There are some industries at present existing that can be benefited largely by some support being given by the Congested Districts Board.

35148. Your main contention with regard to this property is the necessity of a reduction as between the annuity and the rent of these small holdings?—Yes.

35149. In order to give effect to your idea I understand that you would like to do away with the annuity?—Yes.

35150. And you would like a compulsory clause?—Yes.

35151. You would do away with the annuity in order to get inspection?—Under the same system you are handicapped. You cannot secure a purchase that would meet the demands of these poor people.

35152. In regard to a compulsory clause, if the State were to carry out a policy for the benefit of the community at large, and that law were to result from this policy, should that law fall on the State or on an individual?—I would be sorry that anyone should suffer, but in carrying out compulsory sale I think that there are many conditions to be complied with.

35153. Do you think that if a man had landed property, or anything else, and the State required it, he should suffer loss?—The State, as I may say, in a sense, is the cause of having these people driven up to the bad lands in days gone by, and it would be only a matter of justice that they should get special treatment.

35154. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Should the State provide for the treatment?—I think it would be the duty of the State to do so.

35155. Sir James Connolly.—You say that the landlord asked twenty-four and a half years' purchase on this property, and the tenants were willing to give twenty?—There is better land sold under the Ashbourne Act under fifteen years' purchase.

35156. Take the landlord's demand of twenty-four and a half years' purchase. What would you put the tenants' demands at?—Mr. Balfour said fourteen and a half years' purchase. He is a very good authority.

35157. Would you like to take it at twelve years' which is the half of twenty-four?—I would like to take it at a fair and reasonable figure. I would take Mr. Balfour's fourteen. Mr. Parnell said ten.

35158. I will take fourteen if you like. You want inspection and compulsion. The landlord wants twenty-four and the tenant says fourteen. Suppose the inspector, when compulsion comes to be applied, says, "I don't think either of you is right; nineteen years' is about the right figure," would you be in favour, while compelling the landlord to sell at nineteen years' purchase, of compelling the tenant to pay nineteen years' purchase? It must cut both ways. Would you think that a good thing?—You would have to make a compromise in some way.

35159. You favour compulsion and inspection. Would you abide by the result, would you compel the tenant as well as the landlord?—I suppose it would work both ways. It might be injurious to the tenant as much as to the landlord.

35160. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I should like to illustrate a little further some of your replies to the Chairman and Mr. O'Kelly. How do these people now on these poor holdings represent the masses which they derive from the holdings themselves?—Sometimes they might have a member of the family at

service. Sometimes they go to Liverpool and Glasgow. A large number of them go to America, and a large number are in Australia.

35153. It seems to me then that you are dealing with a poor population, who live, to some extent, by the hand and to some extent otherwise?—Yes.

35154. Purchase that would explain your reply to Mr. O'Kelly about Masth, and your reply to Sir John Colomb about the big agricultural farms. You do not look upon migration to Masth as a practical remedy for those men?—It is a very far-fetched idea.

35155. Would your reason for that be this—that you consider, from the improvement of the holdings at home and the establishment of industries that might thrive, and the continuance of those outside sources of supply, it would be possible for a good administration to make these small men as comfortable at home as they would be in Masth?—I believe it would be, and more so.

35156. That is your point of view?—Yes.

35157. Your view is that by the development of industries and the improvement of agriculture these people for whom you are concerned would be as well off at home as by migration, or even better off?—I believe they would.

35158. Is that the reason why you don't advocate migration to Masth?—Yes; that is one of the principal reasons.

35159. You said to Sir John Colomb that it would not be fair to take large agricultural holdings for the relief of congestion. I want to know the reason for that. Take the large agricultural holder. He lives by his land, does not he?—Yes.

35160. Does not he employ a good many people?—Not so many now, since machinery has taken the place of labor.

35161. All the same, does not the tillage farmer give far more employment than the grazing farmer?—Yes, he does.

35162. In other words, the man who tills his land lives by his land on the one hand, and on the other hand, gives a fair share of employment, that is useful to the community?—Yes.

35163. Would not that be a reason to your mind why for the relief of congestion, grazing farms should be touched before agricultural farms?—Yes.

35164. Therefore, for the relief of congestion, the grazing land you consider should come first?—Yes; it should be cut up and shifted.

35165. Is it your view that these outside sources of remuneration will continue? Do you think will the earnings from England and Scotland be available in years to come as they are now?—That is an open question. It might be that these industries in England might not continue.

35166. I ask that question to get at a further question. You said, in answer to Sir John Colomb, that it was a considerable matter for these people to have their rent reduced to a reasonable annuity through purchase?—Yes.

35167. You talked of the inducement to improvements given by ownership?—Yes.

35168. But you also said that the reduction itself was worth seeking?—Yes.

35169. Had you before your mind the case of people, mainly, whose holdings are not economic?—Partly economic and partly uneconomic.

35170. You said before your mind, to a considerable extent, I take it, the case of men whose incomes come partly from the farm and partly from outside?—Yes. These are the uneconomic.

35171. For these people you would think that the reduction of an annual payment of 25 to one of 24 10s. in one department of their expenditure would be a considerable advantage?—A very considerable advantage.

35172. Their budget for the year is a small one?—Yes.

35173. So that even 10s. might make an impression upon it?—Yes.

35174. And the aspect, as I understand, under which you would consider that the reduction in their annual payments is so important for these men, is that they depend upon several sources of income, and the extent to which they can reduce the amount expended for rent is very important for them?—Very important.

35175. Mr. O'KELLY.—How much does a penny in the £ produce in the County Down?—£2,800.

35184. Do you know how any money been stepped in the County Down from the local grants owing to losses in the flotation of stock or any other loss connected with land purchase?—None that I heard of. It is under the Ashbourne Acts that the purchase transactions took place in the mountain districts, and the people have always paid their instalments punctually.

35185. But on the flotation of stock there is a loss, and the grants in aid of rates are the ultimate security against that loss. That being so, have you considered whether the local authority, being ultimately the security for the payment of instalments, should or should not have a voice in connection with sale and purchase?—I think it very important that they should have a voice. They have no voice at present. The Act pledges the credit of people who are not interested in land purchase, but who will be interested later on in having to pay the Government if there is default.

35186. You have referred to one estate, that of Lord Downshire, on which there is a rental of £30,000?—That was supposed to be the rental on all the estates.

35187. Suppose that estate were sold to-morrow at twenty years' purchase the price would be £1,800,000. The loss on the flotation of stock would be £270,000. Suppose the local authority of the County Down made itself responsible for that loss, would not it be a very serious imposition on the rates?—It would be a calamity.

35188. And there are other estates in the County Down to which the same might apply?—Yes; and, in addition, they are adding a year's rent to the purchase, and getting the bonus.

35189. That being so, I suppose you will agree that a very serious state of affairs is opened up for the county?—Yes.

35190. And that the people should be extremely circumspect in their negotiations with their landlords?—Yes; but unless it goes to the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board they will rush into imprudent bargains to get present relief. They don't mind about the rate of purchase, the country, or the British Empire, or anything else so long as they get present relief.

35191. Whilst the farmers are the most important class in the community, they are not the whole community?—They are not.

35192. The shopkeepers and professional men of Ireland are security for the ultimate repayment of these instalments?—They are.

35193. Don't you think it fair and reasonable that the authority which represents them should have a voice in these negotiations?—They should have a voice, because it affects their credit very seriously. There is the River Bush, that rises in the Mourne Mountains, and runs right through the Hilltown estates, and there is a powerful waterfall that would work any machinery. What I have said about the Downshire and Hilltown estates equally applies to the Annesley and other estates around here. This entire parish of Leitrin is under Lord Annesley, and the only good land on this estate Lord Annesley took from the tenants and added to his immense demesne, and has left his tenants on the ten townlands around his residence and palatial residence to do out a miserable existence on rocks, bogs, heather, and whins; and even for the mountains that run through these ten poor townlands the tenants have to pay a sharp rent. Lord Annesley has not even proposed to sell this property. It is generally believed that he and the other landlords have agreed to wait until they would see how the Downshire sale would end, so that they too would demand the same price.

35194. You say that Lord Annesley took this land from his tenants, and added it to his immense demesne?—Yes.

35195. From how many tenants did he take land?—About twenty-five; and then there were six others taken about the year 1870 that I remember myself in comfortable homes.

35196. What proportion in area of the whole property would be represented by the demesne?—I believe that the area of the demesne would be as extensive as the whole area of the twelve townlands outside it.

35197. Half the property has to remain uncropped?—Yes. It is all covered with woods, planted on the ground where the tenants formerly lived.

35198. It is all under timber now?—No. He grazes a considerable amount of it. He keeps sheep and cattle within the demesne.

May 16, 1907.

Rev. Andrew Lowry.

May 16, 1907.

Rev. Andrew
Lowry.

35199. Does he let any of it out as accommodation land to local tenants?—No. You could not get over the wall. Part of a road was open for the people to accommodate his tenants on twelve townlands going to market. He closed this means of ingress to the market, and they had to go round two or three miles.

35200. Contiguous to this huge demesne you have a large area of congestion?—A very large area of congestion.

35201. The congestion has been in part, at any rate, caused by the fact that Lord Annesley in 1870 consolidated the holdings of many of these people to add them to his demesne?—These people had to look for places outside.

35202. Part of the congestion is, at any rate, accounted for by the fact that the land was taken from the people in order to extend the area of Lord Annesley's demesne?—Quite so.

35203. Would you say it would be a very unjust suggestion that this land which was added on to the demesne should be taken from Lord Annesley in order to enlarge the holdings of the adjoining tenants?—That was in contemplation; but I don't know whether that would be effective.

35204. Would you say it is strikingly unjust?—The old theological maxim is that in justice time is neither right nor wrong.

35205. So far as it would improve the condition of the people contiguous to the Annesley Demesne you should first look to the portion of the demesne taken from the tenants in order to relieve the congestion?—Yes. It was suggested that labourers' cottages should be erected, and if the land could be taken compulsorily it could be given to the sons of small holders.

35206. You are aware that it is the policy of the two great parties in the State to put an end to congestion, and that the Tory party is as strongly in favour of it as the Liberal party?—Yes.

35207. Parliament has said that congestion must go. Do you think it worthy of Parliament that after coming to that decision it should shrink from obtaining the means necessary to give effect to its policy?—It is to be hoped so.

35208. In this particular district there is no hope for an improvement in the condition of the people unless the holdings are enlarged?—It comes just the same. It is the Hilltown Estate we have been speaking of.

35209. In this particular district there is no hope of remedying the congestion that prevails unless they get hold of portion of this particular demesne?—It would be a great advantage.

35210. Can anything be done without getting hold of portion of the demesne?—It would not get rid of congestion altogether, but it would help to do so.

35211. Do you know any other property in Ireland where the amount of land devoted to the demesne is equal to the amount occupied by tenants?—I do not. Now I would beg to submit for your consideration a few additional arguments which can be sustained by evidence in reference to this congested area.

(1) Many of these poor people got relief under the Poor Relief Bill. (2) The great majority of the tenants on the above South Down Estate are under £10 valuation. (3) The rent on the majority of their holdings is not made on the land, but by the sons and daughters of these farmers who are at service with large farmers throughout Down, Astrin, and Armagh, and who go to England, Scotland, and America, and send home their hard wrought earnings which go to the rent office. (4) There is no railway facilities for these Hilltown tenants, and hence, many of them have to carry their farming produce fifteen Irish miles to the nearest export market town. (5) Many sad evictions were carried out a few years ago on the Hilltown Downshire Estate for the non-payment of an impossible rent, and some of them not yet reinstated. I was present myself at one of these evictions. The tenant was an old woman, who had an imbecile niece living with her. The old woman took severely ill on the day of the eviction and I was called in to attend her, and administered to her the last rights of the Church. A few kindly neighbours who were present carried me she was in real want. A collection was at once taken up and we were able to hand over to this deserving object of charity a sum of money to relieve her in her extreme want. In a few weeks afterwards, when she recovered, she was evicted by Lord Downshire, a landlord with a rental

of £90,000. If permitted I might refer you to the period of '47 and '49, the years of the famine in Ireland, and to state that in and around the Downshire Estate of Hilltown the people were found in a sad condition of distress and poverty. A Committee was formed of the leading gentlemen of the estate, of whom my father, who was poor law guardian of the Hilltown Division was one, and they sent every day in the village of Hilltown and supplied the poor farmers of the vast mountain estate with soup and other means of livelihood. It is a significant and hopeful sign of the times to see not only the Newry and Downpatrick Unions, the majority of whom are Nationalists, but the Banbridge Union, three-fourths of whom are Unionists, pass resolutions regarding this Commission to hold a sitting in Castlewellan, as they were convinced that evidence could be given to show that a large portion of these Unions should be scheduled as congested. Here is what the Unionist Union of Banbridge says in its resolution, "That we the Banbridge Board of Guardians respectfully request the Commission of Inquiry into the Congested Districts Board of Ireland, to hold a sitting in Castlewellan, as we are convinced that evidence would be adduced to show that a large portion of the Union might be scheduled as congested." In addition these poor tenants in this vast barren mountain range of South Down, are filled with great hope by the announcement made by the Under Secretary, Sir Antony Macdonnell, when he declared at the Commission Court that money will never be wanting in case of estates purchased by the Board for the founding and development of Irish industries, and in my judgment, which is supported by the public opinion of these vast populous localities, one of the best purposes this money could be put to is the establishing of suitable Irish industries in such central districts as Limerick, Kildare, Hilltown, and Mayo Bridge, in order to enable these honest, hard-working and industrious peasant farmers of Down, not only to pay their rentarments to the Government, but to raise their social condition and bring them up to a fairly comfortable position. Now, with reference to purchases. As one who has had considerable experience in negotiating sales and given the conditions under which tenants bargain with their landlords it is evident that the prices will be fixed too high, because for the moment the one party is receiving and the other paying away somebody else's money. In the interest then of the British Treasury, the taxpayer, the landlord, and the tenant there should be a third impartial opinion laid before the advance is made. In the interest of the tenant who is saddled with a long term of liability, such a provision is doubly necessary. Under existing circumstances the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Board are only permitted to ask questions regarding a limited class of agreements. Where the rents are judicial and the prices none prices the Board or Commission must pay the cash and ask no questions, even though, as is proved by the Clinton sale, some of the rents may not be worth half the lowest sale price. Having regard for the future credit of Ireland and its good relations with the sister country this unfairness should be speedily removed. Now, with regard to what once was called and known as the great staple industry of the North, the cultivation of flax, I would beg to request your earnest consideration. The flax crop in this province, especially in County Down, was an important asset to help the farmers to pay their rent and meet their other liabilities. For many years past, and notwithstanding the effect made by Sir Horace Plunkett's Agricultural Board to secure good seed and to teach the farmers with an end up-to-date methods of tilling the soil, the flax industry has ceased to be beneficial to the farmer, in fact many have given up the sowing of flax, as they found it to be a complete failure. The Belfast linen merchants are now, and for many years past only giving 3s. 6d. and 6s. 6d. per stone, whereas a few years ago the farmers could easily obtain 12s. and 12s. a stone. These Belfast merchants are at present and for many years past importing their flax from Courtrai (Belgium), and giving the peasant farmers of that self-proclaimed country life a stone. The large farmers of the North, as well as the small farmers, keenly feel the effect of this market depression, both in the yield and price of this once thriving industry. In the case of most of the holdings all along the Mourne Mountains, the land and rent are the same other elements in the struggle for existence. The

land is either so limited in amount or of so unproductive a character, that without extraneous help, actual starvation would ensue. The tenant on these un-economic holdings are merely the occupants of a piece of land on which he builds his cabin and pays a rent which is supposed to be agricultural, but which is not really earned out of the land, but is supplied by wages earned elsewhere, or by contributions from outside sources. Mr. Ballour in speaking of the value of such land in congested districts estimated its value at fourteen years' purchase, and Mr. Parnell at ten years' purchase. The Irish ratepayers who will be called upon to pay up if the purchasing tenants are unable to meet their instalments are not allowed any voice whatever in a transaction for which his credit was pledged. I would also beg to draw your attention to the fact that the bogs or peat fuel which once was an important asset in this part of the country is now almost exhausted. This is a serious loss and inconvenience to hundreds of these poor people who had their peat bogs as near their own doors. Now, with reference to the importation of Canadian cattle to these congested areas. We all know that if these restrictions be removed in the near future it will be another serious loss and embarrassment to the tenant farmers of this country, already handicapped by the keen competition from other and more favourable lands. In ten or twenty years it would be simply ruinous. One great party of the State frankly confessed that they would have voted for the opening of the ports this year, but for the position of the Irish tenant purchase. This seems a very grave and important matter which a purchaser should take into consideration before binding himself to a bargain for 60 years. Referring to the poor, barren land adjoining Castledillon, which embraces the entire area of Leitrim and part of Lower Drumgonnell and Clonmacnoise, the young men when they grow up have to emigrate in pursuit of employment. The only industry in this densely-populated, mountainous district is the well-known Ballymagrath granite quarry. To show you its superior quality over all competitors, the Albert Memorial in London was taken from this quarry. Now, I firmly believe that when the Commission Board are made aware of the value and importance of this granite industry, you will be disposed to give a helping hand in its development. If Messrs. McCartan & Co., its owners and managers, were provided with polishing machinery and steam cranes, with the assistance of a tramway to the port or railway, they could compete with other Scotch and English quarries. The railway tariff is prohibitive. For example, Mr. McCartan is asked to price four tons blocks for Dublin Port and Docks Board. It takes 1s. 6d. per ton to Ballyward railway station, and 7s. 6d. to Dublin, that is 10s. 6d. per ton; whereas Dalmeity, in Scotland, can deliver in Dublin for 4s. 6d. per ton, and to Belfast for 3s. per ton cheaper than the owner of this Irish quarry. In this congested district of Ballymagrath, the only means of living is the stone and quarry trade. Here is an instance. They were stopped work for six weeks and over 200 people were almost at begging-pail, and quite a number of young tradesmen had to emigrate. These men would all return to their native place if this important industry would get a fair field. Orders are plentiful, and it is the stone rock procurable, and what is more, it is inexhaustible and only requires facilities in transit and up-to-date machinery to employ hundreds of hands. The tradesmen and young learners are all natives. If the Commissioners could spare time to pay the quarry a visit, when in Castledillon, it would possibly bring before you the class of work that can be done on the mountain side. There is also an iron ore industry in the Deemot mountains, a few miles inland from Castledillon. Members of an English company had it examined thirty years ago by experts who pronounced it the best iron ore in any country of the world, even of Spain or America. The company sent over a representative who for many years resided near the mine, but the Government took no further steps to have it utilized, and there it remains to this day, one of our latent sources of wealth, while the people who could have found employment in its development are to-day scattered over the world. There is now a new railway that runs very near it, and it only requires a friendly Government, whether English or Irish, to have this mine of wealth developed, and afford employment to the people.

35212. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You say that these quarries constitute a source of national wealth? Yes.

35213. Is it your view that in a poor country like Ireland there should be some public body to see that the most is made of that source of wealth?—Yes.

35214. Are you aware that the Irish quarrying industry is seriously threatened by its rivals abroad? Yes.

35215. Irish granite has to compete not merely with Aberdeen granite, but with granite from Sweden and Russia?—Yes.

35216. Is it your view that that is all the greater reason that some public authority should see that the Irish quarries should have the best possible provision in the way of transit facilities?—Yes.

35217. Would you go further, and say that some public body in Ireland ought to employ an expert to visit these districts where the people allude, with some reason, that valuable quarries could be opened?—Yes. There should be an expert employed. That is most especially to be desired, because you have evidence of their wealth. If some of them are in working order in a small way, and some of them are yet unopened.

35218. Therefore, you think it reasonable for these interested in the quarries of Ireland to expect that a public body would investigate those districts in which quarries are said to exist?—Yes.

35219. And also that a friendly eye should be had for transit facilities?—Yes.

35220. And, in the third place, that anything that instruction could do ought to be done to enable those who were interested to make the most of these sources of wealth?—Yes.

35221. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Of course, we all greatly regret the emigration to which you have alluded; but has not it been your observation in every country in the world, and among all classes, that the young, strong, and healthy have to leave their homes and go to the remotest parts of the world to seek a living?—Yes.

35222. It is not peculiar to Ireland nor to any class in Ireland?—No; but in the case of the quarries I refer to, the young men could make a good livelihood in the quarries if they had the facilities of transit. They are very deserving, industrious young men, well skilled in their work. Mr. McCartan, a brother of the late member for the division in Parliament, is working this quarry, but at great inconvenience, because the Scotch quarries can send to Dublin at a very small percentage compared to what he has to pay.

35223. You have given an instance of a quarry having been stopped for six weeks—when was that?—About two months ago.

35224. Why was the quarry stopped?—The foreman left, and they were looking for another to take his place. There was some important order on hands that required his presence.

35225. How far is this quarry from Castledillon?—About a mile.

35226. Mr. O'DONNELL.—You have said that emigration is not peculiar to Ireland, and that there was emigration from other countries?—Yes.

35227. At present emigration is drawing upon our capital, and our population is declining through emigration?—Yes.

35228. Do you know any other country in the world where the population is declining through emigration?—No.

35229. In these countries there is no objection to the people going, nor would there be any objection in our country if the surplus population were going?—No.

35230. So that, after all, the kind of emigration we have in Ireland is peculiar to our country, and to one country alone—Ireland?—Yes; and in this imperial province of Ulster the emigration is quite as much as in other places in the South and West.

35231. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is not the granite industry a very important one for Slieve?—Most important.

35232. Does not the amount of money made in this locality through granite quarries show that there is a field, and a profitable field, for investigation into this matter of quarries?—Yes, a very important field.

35233. The new Cathedral in Slieve is being rebuilt

May 16, 1907.
Rev. Andrew
Lowry.

May 16, 1907.

Rev. Andrew
Lorrey.

of native granite?—Yes, just outside the town, from the stone of the place.

35224. Native workmen have been employed in dressing native granite?—Yes.

35225. That is what you would like to see going

on—wherever good stone is to be got in Ireland?—Yes; and Mr. McCann cannot supply the orders that he could get if his quarry was equipped with polishing machinery, and that would employ 200 or 300 individuals.

Very Rev. ROBERT CANNON M'KEOWN examined.

Very Rev.
Bishop of Cavan
M'Keown

35226. Sir JOHN CORMACK.—You come from Castleblayney?—From the vicinity of Castleblayney. I have been asked by the Monaghan County Committee to give evidence on behalf of the small farmers of the county. I wish to describe the necessity that exists in the parish I came from for some special protection. The district is very high, and the farms are extremely highly-rotated, even after two judicial reductions. The County Monaghan is the highest-erected county in Ireland. The reason is that the valuation began in 1848, and the Castleblayney, Newry and Armagh Unions were the last three unions finished. They were finished in 1864 and 1865. In the intervening years the prices of farm produce had gone up, because of the Crimean War and the Civil War in America; and for that reason the County Monaghan is, in proportion to its rateable capacity, the most highly rated county in Ireland. The agricultural valuation in the County Monaghan is £1 3s. 4d. per Irish acre, leaving out water, bog, and waste, while in Kildare it is only £1 2s. If you compare Monaghan with the neighbouring counties of Fermanagh, Tyrone, Derry and Cavan you will see that it is 30 per cent. higher than those counties, and the same contrast will hold good if you compare Monaghan with King's County, Queen's County, Wicklow, Longford, Limerick and Tipperary. One of the results is that the rents are terribly high. I find by the statistical records the rent was raised so much above the valuation. To start with, the valuation was one-third too high, and the rent was then raised proportionately high. I have a record—it is very hard to get them now—of old receipts, which I obtained from a family that preserved them. In this case on the side of a mountain the rent of five acres Irish was 26 7s. 1d., in 1844. In 1852 it was 27 18s. 11d. In 1867 it was £11 18s. 8d. There are eleven townlands in my parish, and the average height of those townlands is between 700 and 800 feet above the level of the sea. That part of the country is not protected from the Northern blasts in April and May. We have an exceedingly cold climate—so much so, that in that part of the country neither grass nor any other crop will make any progress from the middle of October until the middle of April; and as the Commissioners would not bring down the second-term rents to what they should be, this land, some of which is now rated at £1 an Irish acre, would, if judges were to inspect it, be declared to be worth not more than 9s. an Irish acre. I consider the farmers on all the hilly and mountain land of this country should have special protection when purchasing their holdings.

35227. Mr. O'Kearney.—What is now the rent per acre of the farms of five Irish acres, to which you have referred?—It is now £1 1s. per acre.

35228. It is lower now than it was in 1864?—Yes, a little lower. That is only one townland of the eleven that I specially refer to. I thought it better to get a few concrete cases. The rent of another townland about ninety years ago was forty guineas. It is now, after the second judicial lease, £15s., and that represents a reduction of 40 per cent. on the highest rent. I think that this would go in some way to explain the high rents. About the beginning of the last century the district was a good one for horse-growing, but the high, clay lands would not grow it unless the people cultivated it first with spade labour, taking potatoes from it, and manuring it well, and then it would grow some flax, which they turned into linen. While that continued they were very well off, and then the rent was increased, and it was never taken down. On these eleven townlands, comprising 3,500 acres there are living about 200 families, and even their second-term rents are exceedingly high. I know one case of a man named Duffy, whose rent was very high, and who held eleven acres of land. He was evicted, and everyone thought it a pity, as he had a family, that he should be left without a home. Neighbours went to the agent, and said that something should be done,

and that if he was let remain in his house and get an acre of land for potatoes the neighbours would buy the grazing. That was done. In about ten years, when his eldest boy, after being hired, was able to have some money, he got a future tenant's lease from Judge Ross's Court for seven years by paying £40. He held it for seven years at a yearly rent of £22 15s. 6d., but was not able to make the most of it. He just had it for his poor mother and brother and sister. After eight years, a young brother, who is now a farmer in a country close by with a fixed salary, undertook the obligation. His elder brother had let the ground except one acre, and he never made the rent by letting it. Although the land was £1 3s. an Irish acre, a very reliable man told me he had three acres of it one year for £2 3s., and another year for £2 7s. 6d.

35229. Sir JOHN CORMACK.—You have given some interesting illustrations to prove that the rents are too high. But what this Commission is concerned with chiefly is congestion—that is, groups of very small holdings. Can you tell us anything about that in the Castleblayney district?—I did not pay attention so much to that as to this feature, which is general in the poverty-stricken districts that are embarrassed.

35230. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnovan.—That is the reason why Sir John asks you who live in the Castleblayney district there are many holdings of low valuation?—The valuation is no test. It is far too high. The rent was raised in proportion, and for that reason I say that the districts would require some special protection, such as can be afforded by the Congested Districts Board. Unless something like that is done for them the people cannot live there. They used to have bog, but that is gone. An intelligent man, whose rent had been reduced from £18 to £11, told me he would prefer to pay the old rent with the bog to the present rent without the bog. Compared with sixty years ago, there are only 100 people in County Monaghan now for every 200 who were there at that time. In those days there was a great deal of spinning, weaving, and bleaching, and corn milling for wheat.

35231. Sir JOHN CORMACK.—You have referred to the existence of corn mills for grinding wheat sixty years ago, but in 1896 a different fiscal system prevailed in the country than at the present time?—Yes.

35232. Take, say, 1876, when the fiscal system had changed to what it is now; has there been any great decline in corn growing and milling since then?—It had reached bottom by that time.

35233. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnovan.—Is the land going out of tillage a good deal?—It is much the same since I went there, eighteen years ago; but the population is steadily decreasing. The loss of turbery presses heavily on the holders, and the rents are still 80 per cent. too high. I know a small holding of three acres the rent of which, up to a few years before 1857, was £2 15s. After that it was raised to £4 10s. When the rent was £3 15s. the tenant had thirty perches of bog. When the rent was raised to £4 10s. the bog was taken from him, and he was charged 1s. a perch. After that it was raised to 1s. 3d. a perch, and later on the Court of Chancery raised the bog on those poor people to 2s. a perch. I consider Judge Ross's Court to be the worst and hardest landlord in this district.

35234. Sir JOHN CORMACK.—Is your complaint about the fact that it is too dear?—That is so in individual cases, but in the case of 80 per cent. of the people the land is practically exhausted in my district.

35235. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnovan.—Where do they get their fuel?—They are cutting what they call sods, or they go a distance, and pay 4s. 6d. a perch to people who have a few acres of bog. The man with the three-acre holding, to whom I have referred, whose rent was raised from £2 15s. to £4 10s., has his rent at present reduced back to £2 6s., but he has to pay for his bog; and if he paid for the quantity that he used to cut

when his rent, including turbarry, was £2 15s., his rent now would be £3 or £5. I would suggest that the entire of the end of the County Monaghan, where I live, which is all hilly land, should be taken under some Board, that will give them special protection, and I would suggest compulsory sale at a fair price. But if there were, say, 24½ years' purchase of land rented at £1 1s. an acre, whose real value was only 1s., then without the bonus the price would amount to 57 years' purchase; so that it would not do to have compulsory purchase on such second-term rents. The same, in my opinion, especially for all poor lands, should be altogether abolished; and, furthermore, I believe that if the same are not abolished, the people cannot continue to pay the annuities on these poor lands. The great obstacle to increased energy among the rural population is the want of security. It may be said that they have security under the Act of 1831. That can be disputed; for if a man fails to pay his rent all his property in the land is gone. I saw some strange cases that would illustrate the necessity for compulsory sale and inspection. I do not like to say anything that would appear harsh, but a person, however he may feel it, must sometimes speak out firmly what he has to say. I know a certain land agent and landlord, and I may mention three or four of the things which they did, and which frightened the people very much, and embarrassed them. There was a sale seventeen years ago. An inspector came down from the Land Commission in Dublin, and refused to sanction the full price of some of the holdings, as they were not economic, and the people were very poor, and could pay scarcely anything. This agent went to these tenants, and said, "Unless you sign preliminary notes to pay the difference to the landlord there will be no sale." This happened to be with me at the time; a young man from one of these townlands. I at once sent him off with the message, "Tell your brother, and he will tell the others, not to sign anything for this gentleman; they cannot be compelled to sign, and if they do, they will put a burden on themselves and their children." Nothing discourages these people so much as a burden. One of the great benefits of sale is the confidence and encouragement that it gives to them. At present they have no confidence. That is to say, if any man happens to them unable to pay a year's rent they may lose their houses. If they had them purchased out they could devote their time and energy to improving them. There was a man who came to my district from Scotland, and purchased a small piece of waste, where there had been a bog, about one and a half acres. It was worth nothing almost. He got possession of it, and built a house that would cost any public body £100 to build. After a time, owing to a death in his family, he went back to Scotland to live. A man came to buy this little holding from him, and he could not get it, because the landlord had to be pleased with the tenant. Another man came to purchase it. He purchased it, and gave £80 for the house and the piece of ground. There was a judicial lease for 18s. When the arrangement was being made with the landlord to get it changed, he raised the rent to £1, and gave a lease, not of a present tenancy, but of a future tenancy, to the incoming tenant. I happened to hear about it, and told the man that he was acting very foolishly, as he could be put out or his rent could be increased at the end of fifteen years. I told him to see if the courts would hear justice done, as he did not know the effect of what he was doing when he entered into the arrangement. He took no action, and I said if he did not do something I would write to his friends in America and stop them

sending any more money to him. The result was that at last he went to the county court and the judge made him a present tenant at a rent of £1. I know of another case in which the same gentleman is a sale of a small property wanted to change as a basis of purchasing the second term judicial rents to first-term rents, so that the price to be given by the tenant, who did not understand what was done, would be increased to 31 4½ years' purchase of the second-term rents. In one case in question the first-term rent was £12 and the second 29 6s. And this agent asked 24½ years' purchase of the first-term rent, which would amount to 31 4½ of second-term. There may be hundreds of cases like these that I hear nothing about. To save these people from such risk they should get their little farms by compulsory purchase at a fair price. Another objectionable thing in my district is the system of future tenancies. There are about 500 farms in my parish, of whom I am well acquainted with about 500. Of these 500 men, 50 purchased under the Ashbourne-Balfour Acts. Of the remainder there are at least 60 or 70, and probably about 20 more who are future tenants. I say probably more, because from what I have heard it appears that there is a certain number of people who are future tenants, but are ashamed to let it be known. Their children have gone to America, and send home money, and the farmers appear to be thriving, and won't admit that they are future tenants. Most of these future tenants are in a terrible condition. It means this, that the rack-rents of thirty years ago are perpetuated, and these people cannot get judicial leases, and the rent is paid by sons and daughters in America, or England and Scotland, and to a great extent in the case of fourth-fifth of the other small farmers of my parish and of many other parishes that I know of. Another point I would wish to refer to is the misapprehensions arising from the high purchase prices given by one tenant to another. It does not follow from these high prices that the land is worth such prices. These prices arise from the economic conditions of the country and the disproportion there is between supply and demand. The people of the country don't wish the whole family to leave the place. They wish to stick by the old place if possible, and thus very few farms come into the market annually—so the best of my opinion not the half of one per cent. Very few are sold, and the few that are are acquired by officials, school teachers, or rural postmen and returned Americans. These men, partly through a laudable sort of sentimentality, wish to spend the last years of their life among the scenes of their youth, and give high prices to get farms, but the farmers are not able to give these prices. I know a case of a farm of fifteen Irish acres sold about fifteen years ago. The first judicial rent was £19 6s. The farm was sold for £100, and the buildings on the farm were worth £200. The landlord claimed £25 or £30. It was one of these rare cases, in which they gave timber and slaves. The rent was the tenant's. One hundred pounds was all he got for house, fence, and all the rest. I knew another case that occurred within the last six months in which a young man who earned some money in Glasgow wished to have a farm in Ireland. He bought a farm of ten acres within a mile of Monaghan-road Station for £348. The rent was 28 6s. The purchase money would not build the house and fence and give anything for the unexhausted manure. So it is quite a fallacy to imagine that the high prices of farms are a proof that land is valuable in Ireland, or that the people can make anything out of the land.

May 14, 1907.
Very Rev.
Magistrate
Mr. Jones.

Mr. JOHN M'EWY examined.

35346. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—You represent the Technical Instruction Committee of the County Down?—Yes.

35347. Would you kindly bring before the Committee the points you wish to emphasize?—The general scheme of the Department are working well through the County Down, but districts that have been referred to are receiving no benefits, or very slight benefits, from these schemes. The reason is, I believe, that the people are too poor to purchase live stock under the

scheme; and I think if these districts were scheduled under the Congested Districts Board they might supply them with cattle-breeding stock, and some other things like that.

Sir JOHN CONNOR.—I would just like to correct that. His lordship will tell you that by a recent change what was formerly done by the Congested Districts Board in congested areas for the purpose of supplying cattle is now done by the Agricultural Department.

Mr. John
M'EWY.

May 16, 1907.

Mr. John
H. Gwynne.

35240. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Sir John has put the case quite accurately, as might be expected, to you. For some years past the agricultural work formerly done by the Congested Districts Board has been discharged by the Agricultural Department. You are stating to the Commissioners now, however, that the work of the Agricultural Department does not reach the poorest districts in the country?—Yes. It does not reach for the reason I have stated. The people are too poor to buy premium bulls, or to improve the breeds of any of their stock.

35241. And in your opinion the poorest districts do not receive at present the treatment that is adequate for their requirements?—Yes; I would say so. I don't live in those districts. I know very little about them. I only know them by report, but I believe that there are many works that might be done through the country that would be beneficial to the country. There are a lot of bad roads through the country. They have often applied to the District Council to get roads put on the county, but these applications cannot be entertained for want of money. I think it would assist some of these districts if they had good roads leading to the markets.

35242. Mr. O'Kearney.—Have you separate county committees for agricultural and technical instruction in the County Down?—No. One body does all.

35243. What was the nature of the agricultural schemes in the County Down?—They give assistance to showmen—they give regulations to showmen, pay fees to approved stallions, give premiums to men who buy premium bulls, which are available for a certain number of cattle at a small fee. They also give prizes for growing fat, and for the best kept cottages, and the best kept small farms.

35244. There are no scheduled congested areas in the County Down?—Not that I am aware of.

35245. Consequently each electoral division contributes to the rate payable to the local agricultural Committee?—Certainly.

35246. Was this agricultural scheme prepared by yourself or by the Department of Agriculture?—By the Department of Agriculture.

35247. Was it designed to bring good to the greatest number?—Yes; I suppose so.

35248. How is it that it does not reach the very poor?—Some of the schemes for fowl, etc., might reach them, but I don't see how the breeding of cattle or horses could reach them.

35249. Can you give me an approximate idea of the amount spent on subsidising shows and premium bulls, and the amount given for the development and encouragement of cottage industries?—I could not tell you that. With regard to premium bulls and horses, they are doing a lot of good through the county, because good bulls and horses can be let to those people for a shilling a service.

35250. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would this be a summary of your reply: that there are poor areas in the County Down that are not sufficiently provided for under the general arrangements, and that require special treatment?—Yes; I think so.

35251. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Are you a farmer yourself?—Yes.

35252. What is the extent of your farm?—I have a brother who lives with me. We farm about 300 Irish acres.

35253. Do you agree with the evidence given earlier in the day that four-fifths of the land of farms in this part of Ireland is in tillage?—No; I don't agree with that.

35254. It was also stated that on farms of thirty acres of that same land cattle are not only produced, but are also matured and finished; do you agree with that?—Not quite. As a rule the cattle in the Kerry district are sold at a year or a year and a half old. They are either shipped to England or are sold to large graziers from Meath or Westmeath who come to buy stock for grazing. There are large farms where they do finish cattle. We finish most of them ourselves, though I don't know whether it is as profitable as to sell them the other way.

35255. Then you disagree with the opinion that farmers with farms as small as thirty acres do produce, mature, and finish their beasts?—They do not finish nearly all what they rear. They might finish one or two in the year, but I don't believe, as a rule, they do.

35256. It is not the principle of their farming to do so?—It is not the principle in the County Down.

35257. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—When you state that an agricultural farmer in the County Down does not keep so much as three-fourths of his farm under tillage perhaps there may be some little explanation of your statement that will make it quite consistent with what the former witness stated. The former witness when talking us that three-fourths of the farm would be under tillage told us that in the rotation of that farm certain periods in grass are classified as tillage. Suppose you take those two or three years when the farm is in grass as tillage, would it then be true to say that in the County Down on an agricultural farm three-fourths or more of the farm is in tillage?—Would you take out the grazing grounds and not call that tillage?

35258. What he did take out was the land permanently under grass and meadow. He said if you exclude that then three-fourths or four-fifths of a well-titled farm in the County Down is under tillage?—I would not say it is. I could not think it.

Mr. O'Hare.—I did not mean that every farmer with thirty acres finishes his cattle, but a good many of them do.

Very Rev. Canon QUINN examined.

Very Rev. Canon Quin.

35259. CHAIRMAN.—You reside at Oamloagh, in the County Armagh?—Yes.

35260. You represent the Executive of the United Irish League for South Armagh?—Yes.

35261. Kindly bring before the Commission the points to which you wish to draw attention?—I did not intend to give any evidence before this Commission, but on account of having taken active part in the movement for land reform during 40 years, and having joined Sir Horace Plunkett in the work of the Agricultural Department, and Dr. Hyde in the language movement, I was pressed to give my views to the Commission and I yielded. My first point is with regard to South Armagh as a congested area. My second is as to the industries to be established in order that the people might live and thrive in these areas; and the third is with regard to land purchase. On the first point I think I can prove that South Armagh is as congested as any place in Ireland, with the exception of the Rosses of Donagh, with parts of Leitrim, Mayo, Galway, and Kerry, and hence requires exceptional treatment, and should be scheduled as a congested area; and if there are benefits to be derived through the Congested Districts Board our poor district, which you will probably visit to-morrow, should receive those benefits as well as Donagh, Mayo, with the rest of Ireland. My parish is something like fourteen miles long by six broad, and all through the

parish the tenants have bought out either under the Ashbourne-Balfour Acts or the recent Act.

35271. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You were the negotiator yourself?—I negotiated for nearly 3,000 tenants directly with the landlords and agents. Recently they have purchased on the estate of Captain Alexander at Fethill, five miles from Newry. On that estate there are 692 holdings; 550 of these holdings are rated under 24, and down to 22 and 21. There are 113 holdings rated at from 24 to 210, and about twenty holdings rated at upwards of 210. It is a very congested area, and very poor. Another estate, Johnston estate, is alongside Alexander's estate, and has 258 holdings. Of these 207 are under 24 rental, and forty-three between 24 and 210, and there are two above 210. On the Littledale estate some of which is in my parish, there are 57 holdings. Of these fifty-nine are under 24, and eight between 24 and 210. There are none above 210.

35272. All these holdings are now sold?—Yes. On Richardson's estate, close to Blackrock, has been sold lately though they have not yet signed, the average would be about the same. On some of the estates in South Armagh, near Crossmaglen, I think that the average would scarcely even reach that.

35273. At what do you put the average valuation of the holdings in South Armagh; take those special estates that you have been talking about?—I think it would

be less than 24. Most of them are from 24 down to 21. There is a belt of land running up from Newry here into the County Monaghan, along Slieve Gullion, and all those mountain regions are congested. What they call the Lower Omeir, from Benbulbin down to Newry, is not congested. My parish has along there. About half of it is congested and half is not congested. Mr. Omeir's estate, Mr. Wilson's estate, and others are bought out, but there is no congestion. My argument is this: even if they had the land for nothing in the congested portions they could not live and thrive in their holdings.

33274. Sir JOHN CONNELL—Are there no mills or industries in the district?—I am coming to that point. What I would insist on is that South Armagh should be scheduled as a congested district, and receive whatever benefits are to be derived from the Congested Districts Board in the future, and not have them confined to Donagall, Mayo, or Kerry.

33275. You understand that the Congested Districts Board have no power themselves to extend their area of operations, and that it would require an alteration in the law to enable this to be done?—Yes, but you can recommend that. In 1881 I gave evidence before the Benbulbin Commission, which was a very important one. It was the precursor of the 1881 Act. One of the most momentous Acts ever passed for Ireland. It was good for landlords and for tenants alike. That Commission had far-reaching results. I gave evidence there from this district, and unfortunately am the only survivor. I look upon this Commission as equally important, and hope that it will have equally far-reaching results on the congested areas of Ireland, because the congested areas are now the difficulty in settling the land problem in Ireland.

33276. Mr. O'NEILL—You would like to have South Armagh scheduled and to have the Congested Districts Board do there what they do elsewhere through the country?—Yes.

33277. What would you do with the Estates Commissioners?—I don't think we have much to do with them when we have bought out so much. Some of them have not bought yet, but in my parish, and three or four other parishes, the Congested Districts Board would be more serviceable and more profitable.

33278. You will admit that there is some disadvantage in having two Boards doing the same class of work in the one county?—I think they should have a perfect understanding between each other.

33279. An attempt was made in that direction, and I understand it was not altogether successful?—If this new Bill passes the Congested Districts Board will have extended powers. From my knowledge of their work in Donagall and elsewhere, I think it would be a great pity if the Congested Districts Board did not get more money and more powers. They have done very good work.

33280. Assuming it is a disadvantage to have two bodies doing the same kind of work in the one county, would you then be in favour of handing over South Armagh to the Congested Districts Board, leaving the Board to deal with the problem that they find there?—I would.

33281. Keeping the Estates Commissioners out altogether?—Yes. That is throwing no reflection on the Estates Commissioners. They are doing their own work, and doing it well; but I would be very sorry to see a body that has done such good work superseded by another body doing equally good work. I think that they should both co-operate in working for the good of Ireland.

33282. But you would have one body working in one particular area and the other in another area?—That would happen. The Congested Districts Board would be confined to districts where there is congestion. In places where there is no congestion the Estates Commissioners would have full scope. In the greater part of Armagh there is plenty of the best of land with which they could deal.

33283. Your preference for the Congested Districts Board arises from your knowledge of the good work that the Board has been doing in the past?—Yes; as far as my knowledge goes.

33284. You would be rather reluctant to hand over the same class of work to a Board the members of which have not the same experience as the members of the Congested Districts Board?—I don't care to give a preference to one body over another when both are doing good work.

33285. Remember that the Estates Commissioners are also a Congested Districts Board within the meaning of the Act?—They have a great number of functions besides the relief of congestion. The Congested Districts Board work is exclusively in congested areas.

33286. Does not it seem reasonable to suggest that the body that has the greater experience should be selected for doing that particular class of work, such as dealing with the problems of congestion?—Yes; that is the Congested Districts Board.

33287. And that is why you would have more confidence in committing to them the work in South Armagh?—Quite so.

The next point, which I think a very grave point, is with regard to these poor people—can they be migrated, say, to places in the County Meath or County Louth? Of course, if these large grazing farms were cut up as I would be most anxious that they should be, it might be done, but the question of migration might also have its serious difficulties. The people of Louth—where there is a good deal of congestion—and of Meath would probably object to people from the outside, because they would have plenty of poor people who were forced from these large areas in my own time; because I remember 1847 well, and all these evictions in Meath, and the clearance of the holdings, and those who did not go to America were forced into the small holdings in the barren districts. Now, the people are most anxious to return to the homes that their fathers possessed, and I would say that they should have a preference. But what I hold is that there is not any necessity for migration. If we had industries established here. In South Armagh, here, especially in my parish, we have certain industries. We have, in Benbulbin, a mill that employs 2,500 girls. There is no employment for most except a few, such as machinists. About twenty-five years ago they employed over 500 handlooms. They applied machinery to that work, and now there are only twelve or eighteen employed. To that factory girls come from three miles around from this congested district that I mention. There is a population of about 4,000 in Benbulbin, but the girls come from three miles around to the mills, and it is of great importance to them. About 1874, when I came there as parish priest, they were paying out at Benbulbin quarries about £1,000 a week. It was carried on until Mr. Flinn died about twelve years ago. Mr. Richardson then let the quarries to a man named Sturrock for ten years at £100 a year. Mr. Sturrock never worked the quarry, but absolutely closed it up, thereby depriving us of that £1,000 a week. That left me, when the hickies had gone away, and the 500 men in the quarries were disemployed, with a congregation of women and no men. That is a very serious matter. It would be a good thing if these quarries were reopened, and they could be re-opened now because they have fallen into Mr. Richardson's hands. They are the best of quarries, though now filled with water, and would give employment to 400 or 500 men.

33288. Sir JOHN CONNELL—People do not give up things that pay them, and I conclude that the first owner kept on the quarries because they paid him; but if they paid the second man how do you account for his giving up a thing that would put money in his pocket?—The man who took it after the last man did took it with the object of beguiling the district for the Newry district.

33289. To lose money himself?—He has paid £100 a year for ten years and has never saved anything by it.

33290. My experience of the world is that a man will stick pretty tightly to a thing that is bringing in money, and if it is a paying concern I cannot understand why a man would be so foolish as to shut it up. The first man who did would not have earned it or unless he made a profit out of it?—He was at a loss.

33291. A man does not give himself great trouble in business unless he makes money by it. After the last man died what happened?—It fell into the hands of the lord of the soil and he let it for £100 a year to a man who did not intend to work it.

33292. Why did he pay £100 a year for it if he did not want to work it?—Just to close it up. He had quarries in Newry.

33293. He bought it up to stop competition against his own quarry?—Yes. In Lislea district we have a splendid quarry. It is a congested district. We have probably the best stone that could be got. Here is a certificate about it (produces certificate). I have also

May 16, 1907.

Very Rev.
Owen Giblin.

May 16, 1907,
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 Very Res.
 Owen Quinn.

brought a specimen of the stone (granite specimen stone). It is the hardest stone and the best for setts in the three kingdoms. That quarry, if developed, would give employment to 200 or 300 hands and some assistance might be given to this project. That would relieve the whole district and make these un-economic holdings economic in a sense. The people would remain at home and they would be more comfortable probably than if they migrated to Westmeath or the County Louth. The quarry that was closed was splendid for ornamental work and also for setts, but this quarry is much better for setts, because it is very hard. This Lifford quarry is in a distinct congested area from the Beedbrook quarry. What I want to try to show to the Commission is this: that there is a great possibility of establishing industries especially in those places where the people have bought out.

35294. Mr. O'KELLY.—Was this Lifford quarry ever worked?—It is being worked now, but slowly.

35295. Are the workers local people?—Local people.

35296. Have they been trained in the work of dressing stone?—Yes; and they had very large orders from Belfast, and they are trying to get them from Glasgow and elsewhere.

35297. Had you to teach them how to dress the stone?—We have any number of them well taught. They were all sett makers when this old quarry was going on. Then they had to learn to go to other quarries. Now they could return to me. They are all instructed.

35298. You have orders at present from Belfast?—Yes.

35299. What is it that hinders the expansion of this development?—The want of orders and the want of capital.

35300. What steps, in your view, ought to be taken to assist the industry? What would be the nature of the assistance you would require?—We would require some little money assistance in the beginning to encourage it until we should be established. A child requires aid until it can walk; when it can walk it can go along by itself. When these are put in the market I think we can succeed well.

35301. You say that the local people are already well-trained as makers of the setts. What form would the expenditure take, supposing you got the money?—In my opinion, if we were under the Congested Districts Board, it would be for the Board to lay down terms. In Donegal they spend money and say it must be returned, or they give it as a free gift, or do something to encourage the industry.

35302. But my point is this: generally the aid given by the Department of Agriculture to new industries is in the shape of teaching the technique of the particular trade in which these local people are engaged. You say that the local people understand the work of dressing the setts. That being so, supposing you got a grant to-morrow morning, what would you devote it to?—I would devote it to developing the quarry.

35303. By developing the quarry you mean what?—Working it properly, and trying to get orders and also the polishing of the fine stone.

35304. Does not some local man own the quarry?—Yes.

35305. Can he provide the capital requisite for polishing and so forth?—He could. He is a man with £200 or £300 capital, but when you have £200 or £300 in stock and there is a delay in getting orders for setts and so on, his capital is exhausted; but if there was a little encouragement given the Congested Districts Board could see for themselves whether it could be developed.

35306. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would you say a bonus per ton on the output for a year or two would be a good way of encouraging the quarryist?—I think that would be a great encouragement. We will take another industry—the shirt-making. Some years ago, I, with Sir Horace Plunkett and all those people took a very great interest in establishing shirt-making in the district. An Inspector from Dublin was sent down and it was to be worked in my own parish. Unfortunately I was from home and he was not to put it in Mullaghbawn. There were old schools there, and I was delighted, because Mullaghbawn is a very congested area and the people were very poor before that; so that I was delighted that there was an industry established in Mullaghbawn, although I lost it

myself. But there is no jealousy on these points as long as it is for the good of the country. The Rev. Father Johnston undertook to work it out. They established a branch of the Derry shirt-making in Dundalk. It failed in the town of Dundalk. There was a branch of it in Mullaghbawn, which probably you will pass to-morrow. Father Johnston specially cultivated this industry, so his credit he sold, and he applied to a firm in Manchester and put it under their care, and they undertook it and worked it out. Some time ago, when I entered the school the girls were very poor-looking, because they were extremely poor, but the industry is now giving employment to from 50 to 100 girls, as fine specimens of Irish girls as one could see anywhere, well-fed and clothed, fine-looking girls. That is one employment. The land was purchased out recently and this industry supplements the little income that may be derived from the farms, and they are quite happy. I don't know any place in the North of Ireland progressing more than Mullaghbawn. At first, the girls earned very small wages, but now they are earning from eight to ten shillings. If there were two or three girls in each house you would see the comfort that that will bring. Is Commission you will find an industry established by Rev. Canon McGonaghy, who suffered personal loss in the beginning, but he bore on, and employment is now given in crochet and different other branches of needlework from 100 to 200. If these were established and if the industries could be brought into their own homes it would keep the people at home and probably make them as comfortable as if they were migrated either to Louth or to Meath. Now, I come to the purchase of land, the last point. I myself negotiated under the Ashbourne and Baldoon Acts and I can tell you very clearly how much the price has gone up under the 1903 Act. The first estate I bought was that of the Rev. Mr. Glenny, Rector of Warrenpoint. We bought that about six or seven years ago. We divided the rent by two and he asked 18 and we offered 16, and we closed at 17 years' purchase of second term rent. Then we bought from Mrs. Quinn, three townlands, all congested. We cut the old rent in two and gave 17 years' purchase on half the rental. She negotiated first for 16 and we in our generosity gave her 17.

35307. Sir JOHN COLSON.—What are we to understand by half the rental?—It was under lease at first. We fixed a fair rent by reducing the old rent to half what it had been, and we gave 17 years' purchase of the reduced rent.

35308. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Was it an agricultural estate?—Yes.

35309. Was the rent which was reduced a very high rent before reduction?—Yes.

35310. Did you consider half the rent a fair rent?—Yes; and so did the landlord.

35311. She thought 16 years' purchase was enough?—Yes.

35312. You said 17?—We gave 17 for another reason, because we gave the same to Dr. Glenny.

35313. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Before the negotiations were the tenants paying the rent which you afterwards cut in half?—They were for some time, not immediately before it, because immediately before it there was a judicial rent fixed, and I think they got about 7s. 6d. or 8s. in the pound of a reduction. Then we came in and bought, and they were coming in for a second term rent and she said we should split the old rent in two and make it a second term rent and sell on that basis. Then the 1903 Act was passed and we requested the landlords to sell on reasonable terms and we would meet them reasonably. The first we tried was Alexander's Estate. We were negotiating for two years. The landlord asked 23 years' purchase and we came as far as 21. Then we came to close quarters and there was a sale at 22½. Then after that Stungon was sold. It was better land and brought 23½ years' purchase. Mr. Richardson's was purchased lately at 20½ years' purchase on first term rent, that is 6s. 6d. in the pound on first term rent and 4s. 6d. on second term rent. The last I bought was Mr. Littledale's estate. It was part of the Whalley estate; and for the townland that we bought from Mr. Fowler, who is the agent in town here, 23 years' purchase was given. So in these cases the landlords get six years more, plus the bonus, than was given under the old Act. So the Quins were not thankful to me, because if they had remained a little while longer without selling they would have got nine years more

purchase for their lands. What I say is this. For the purchase of good land 24½ years' purchase is fairly equitable. That is in the Lower Ormory. The sale prices in the congested areas are, however, very high. The landlords are holding for in fact extravagant terms. Their argument is that they want their net income on second term rents, congested areas and all that. It is a fair principle on good land. It is not a fair principle on bad land. While the good land of Armagh and County Down is being sold the bad land in congested areas is not being sold. The farmers on the good land who were fairly well-to-do, considering the circumstances of Ireland, have bought out, the landlords are now holding out for extravagant prices on the bad lands. What I hold is this, and I suggest it, on reflection, as a person who knows a good deal about the sale of land. While the landlords of bad land cannot sell under the terms of the Ashbourne Act so as to get a fair price, which they should get if compelled to sell, and the tenants cannot buy under the Act of 1903, which remains to them a dead letter. So far as the congested areas are concerned there are three classes of land: first, prime land; second, medium land, and third, bog and mountain land that is of bad quality. If the congested districts are not dealt with in the near future they will deal with themselves and there will be a row raised, greater than the row in 1881. Meantime, they are willing to see what will be done. What I would suggest is this, I would give no bonus on sales of 24½ years' purchase, because if a man gets 24½ years' purchase he can so arrange it that it will produce him net income, and sales of that kind should not be facilitated by the bonus. Then in the case of sales of land of the second and third classes I say that the tenant should pay about 18 years' purchase as a standard, and the landlord should get about 20 per cent. on that, which would bring the price up sufficient to produce him net income. There are other sorts of land for which they would ask 28 years' purchase. I would give 14 or 15 per cent. on that; the landlord could sell at 20, and if there be such a scale in the near future there may be people who disagree with me on this point, but they will be unreasonable, I think, if they do—I think all the congested areas should be bought up by the tenants and that the bonus should go to this class of land.

35322. You propose to graduate the bonus according to the quality of the land, but the question of the size of the holdings, which is an important one, does not appear to enter into your proposition?—On all the bad land you have the small holdings.

35323. On the good also there are small holdings?—Not many.

35324. There are some?—Take my own parish. From Newbrook down the holdings would be between 20 and 30 acres on an average, all economic.

35325. Then your view is that small holdings are only on the indifferent and bad land?—Yes. The small holdings are generally on the bad land.

35326. Your proposition is to regulate the bonus in inverse ratio to the quality of the land; that is, the worse the land the higher the bonus?—Yes; and in congested districts.

35327. Are we to take your proposition as one for dealing with congested districts only?—What I would say is this. If a landlord gets 24½ years' purchase on second term rent he makes a good bargain and requires no bonus. But the congested areas are poor, and should be treated specially favourably instead of being, as they are, blocked owing to the fact that the landlords are asking extravagant prices. I have here a statement as to Sperrin, County Tyrone. Mr. Sperrin offers his estate to his tenants at 23½ years' purchase; he reserves the shooting, and I am not certain but that he reserves the bogs. From that same gentleman I bought a farm of the best land in the county at Stewartstown, County Tyrone, and I sold to him, "Mine is a better bargain at 24½ years than that mountain land at 25."

35328. Is it not a reasonable proposition that in the case of a voluntary sale a man should say, "I cannot sell my land unless I get a price that will

leave me with the same income as I had before I sold?"—It is.

35329. If, on the other hand, it would be injurious to the tenant to give such a price, do you think that it is the business of the State to make up the difference?—Yes. That is what I am trying to show you.

35330. Therefore, your proposition amounts to this, that you would use the bonus to enable the landlord to sell his lands without loss of income and to enable the tenant to buy and to sit at an annuity that he can pay?—Yes.

35331. Mr. O'KELLY.—You think that as the bonus is now distributed it has a tendency to raise prices, and that it should be distributed in inverse ratio to the selling price?—Something like that I have tried to explain.

35332. The lower the price the higher the bonus?—That is what I tried to convey; otherwise they will never come to a settlement on the poorer class of land unless there is compulsion, and I would have compulsion that would be fair to the tenant and fair to the landlord. I have been forty years in the land business, and we have bought out every inch in my parish, and I don't think I have an enemy among the landlord class, the agent class, or the tenant class. We have bought for a while, but we have come to very good terms and we have made bargains, and I find that the tenants are more than reasonable; and I must say that the landlords are not reasonable. I will give one illustration of it. In the County Tyrone there is a gentleman you all know pretty well—Colonel Hutchinson P.O. He is a very clever man; one of the most intellectual men I ever met. This is where I was bred and born. I was requested to head a deputation as to the purchase of his property by the tenants. It is bogland. Probably you will come across it in Cookstown. It is a congested area nine miles from a railway or from any town. I met him, and we got into bantering. He asked 26½ years' purchase for that bogland. I think I offered him 18. He came down to 24 for that bogland—reasonable bogland. I offered him 22½ years' purchase on second term rent—and they were nearly all second term rents. The bordering estate, the Hopewell estate, the largest estate in the County Tyrone, was immediately before all sold at 17 years' purchase, the same as under the Ashbourne Act, and in the County Derry, too, it was sold at the same price. He refused the offer that we made, and that is two years ago. We offered 22½, which was 5½ more than the price of the Hopewell estate, plus the bonus. The result is that Colonel Hutchinson P.O. will not sell, and the tenants would be fools to give a higher price, and I suppose that I encouraged them in their folly. And just like Colonel Hutchinson P.O., so the landlords generally of the poor lands will not sell, and the end will be that there will be a fight between landlords and tenants, and the State will come in and make bargains between them. I saw from the evidence given before you in other places that an agent from Letterkenny seemed to object to any tribunal fixing the fair price unless it was a landlords' tribunal. I have a very strong view that if there was a fair tribunal, such as the Estates Commissioners, and the tenants objected to object to any tribunal fixing the fair price unless it was a landlords' tribunal, and the same would apply to the landlords. I think if such a tribunal were appointed they could arrange the bonus so that the landlord could sell without loss to the tenant at a price that would not be extravagant.

35333. Sir JOHN CHAMBERLAIN.—You were referring to Mr. Boyd's evidence. He objected to the Estates Commissioners on the ground that they represent the State, which advances the money. What he was advocating was an independent tribunal that had no interest in the matter?—I hope that there will be some tribunal appointed so that we may get the land problem settled, and settled for ever, because until that problem is settled you will never have peace and prosperity in Ireland. Once you have the land problem settled, then all other things will be added unto you. Settle the land problem and education, Home Rule, and everything else will be settled afterwards.

May 16, 1907.

Very Rev.
Canon Galt

May 16, 1905.

Mr. James
McGuill.

Mr. James McGuill examined.

35325. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Where do you reside?
—At Drummond House, Newry. I have been appointed to represent Newry No. 2 Rural District Council. I am very glad to say that the last witness has lightened my labour very much. What I have to say is shortly this. The portion of the district south of Newry is certainly congested, as I can show you by a few figures in reference to four electoral divisions. Taibé Forcillán electoral division. In the townland of Carrigan the average valuation is £3 8s., and that of Cloghassan is £3 12s. In the Jomeshore division the average valuation of Carrickbrood is £3 12s., and of Dromie, £4 2s. In the Killybeg division the average of Townshew is £3 12s., and of Bellinzie £4 7s., and in Lathbert division the average of Lathbert townland is £3 12s., that of Mapmore is £2 12s., and that of Tullamaree is £4 1s. What is wanted to remedy the congestion in these places is land for migration. In all these places you could not find room for the migration of more than thirty or forty.

35326. For the assignment of holdings?—To shift those where there is great congestion, and migrate them to some of the neighbouring parishes in the next townland.

35327. That is what you advocate?—Yes. I wish to relieve those who are too much congested.

35328. You cannot say that in those districts there are any areas that can be taken up for the purpose of enlarging these holdings?—There are not.

35329. Therefore, to relieve congestion in these particular districts you are driven to suggest migration?—Yes. I would also like to refer to arable drainage, which would make more land available for the people.

35330. In these districts?—Yes, because we have a lot of wet land which if drained would be available for the people, and would enable them to live more comfortably.

Mr. W. R.
Bell.

35340. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—You are Clerk of the Newry Union?—Yes, and I am Secretary of the Newry No. 1 and No. 2 Rural District Council, a member of the County Armagh County Committee, and Honorary Secretary of the Newry Agricultural Society. I know the district round Newry well for about fifteen miles, especially the southern portion of the County Armagh, where I was born and lived all my life. It is the poorest part of the County Armagh—Jomeshore, Killybeg, Forcillán, and Lathbert. I was asked specially on behalf of the County Armagh County Committee to give evidence on regard to the county schemes. They have worked well in the better off portions of the county, but in the poor portions the premiums for bulls have not been taken up at all. We feel that if these areas were scheduled as congested we should get more assistance to provide bulls and premium money, and that sort of thing, to enable the people to breed better animals than they now breed.

35341. Is the Agricultural Committee you come here to represent under the impression that if these districts were scheduled the Congested Districts Board would take up that question of supplying bulls and live stock?—We understand that the Board has done so in other places.

35342. Were you in court when the Bishop explained that that had all been altered?—Yes; but up to the present we have not been able to get bulls for the poorer parts of our county. I did my best to get a bull or two for them, but could get no assistance. The Department then said they would lend some money. One bull was bought for £60, about three years ago, and that bull has done a great deal of good in that part of the county.

35343. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You say that since the work in the congested districts was handed over to the Department, within the past few years, so much have the special needs of the congested areas been felt that in addition to the county schemes the Department have been moved to make special provision for those areas by supplemental schemes; so that it is just possible, in furtherance of your contention, if

35331. Your proposition is to schedule these particular townlands as congested?—I only took them as an illustration. I say that all north of Newry in these four electoral divisions is congested.

35332. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You consider that in these four electoral divisions there are considerable areas of poor districts that should be scheduled?—Yes; Forcillán, Killybeg, Jomeshore, and Lathbert.

35333. Mr. O'Kearney.—In the Forcillán division you have 379 holdings out of 492, or 82 per cent. of the whole under £10 valuation; in Jomeshore you have 454 holdings out of 541, or 85 per cent. of the whole under £10 valuation, and in Killybeg you have 508 out of 695, or 81 per cent. of the whole under £10 valuation?—That is right.

35334. That being so, don't you think that taking any holding under £10 as an uneconomic holding, these districts should be scheduled in order that the uneconomic holdings might be attended to?—That is my opinion; that is so long as we cannot get any home industry to keep them there.

35335. In Lathbert you have close on 90 per cent. of the holdings under £10 valuation?—That is so.

35336. Could you give an approximate idea of the per head valuation in these districts?—I could not.

35337. Would you say that there were about five persons to each holding?—Yes.

35338. Then in the case of the holdings to which you referred, with an average valuation of £3 8s. to £4 1s., the per head valuation would range from fourteen to sixteen shillings?—About that.

35339. If you divide the valuation by the population in the four divisions you have named, would you get a figure under thirty shillings?—I have never looked into that, but the Clerk of the Union tells me it would be more than thirty shillings.

Mr. W. R. Bell examined.

35344. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—You lay great stress on that, as an economic necessity?—I do. Unless these poor people get assistance they will never improve their breed of cattle. The same thing applies to premium boms. The pork industry is a very good one in this part of the country. I tried to get the people to improve their breed of pigs, and none of them would purchase good boars. I persuaded the Board of Guardians, and they purchased good boars, and they are breeding good pigs and sending them out to the people, and changing so little as they can without losing the ratepayers' money, to improve the breed of pigs, and I am glad to say we are succeeding in that. As a member of the County Committee of Agriculture for Armagh, I may say we have had a good deal of trouble with the Department with regard to the breeding of horses. For years past I endeavored, in my own small way, to get the Department to subsidize half-bred hunter sires. Until this year the Department would not do so. But, after four or five years persuading them that we were right, they have now agreed to do it. The work of the lectures through the country, in my opinion, is doing a lot of good. I know that many small farmers all over the County Armagh, especially in the poorer parts of it, write to the agricultural lecturer for information and views as to the way in which they should till their farms. I regard that as a very good feature indeed.

35345. Mr. O'Kearney.—Are these itinerant instructors?—Yes.

35346. How long do they stay in a particular district?—As a rule, about three weeks.

35347. What period intervenes until they re-appear in that district?—Possibly they would not come to the same district for a year afterwards; but they have experimental plots in certain parts of the county, and I must confess that the experimental plots, as far as I saw them, were not, in my opinion, quite a success. Perhaps that was because they had too many plots.

and the instructor could not attend to the whole of them.

35343. How many plots have you in Novoy?—We have none now.

35349. You have to rely entirely on the itinerant instructor?—Yes. In the County Armagh, at the present time, we have agricultural classes. A number of young farmers go to Armagh three days in the week, at certain times of the year, and get very valuable instruction. That scheme has been very popular with a certain number of the young farmers, and almost every student who came in well advanced.

35350. That is the agricultural class; but take the itinerant instructor. He disappears from the district, and twelve months elapse before he re-appears?—I am sure that it would take him twelve months to get around the county.

35351. What class of people does he effect instruction to?—Farmers; partly young farmers, but mostly middle-aged farmers.

35352. Have you heard what has been the results of itinerant instruction in other parts of the country outside the County Armagh?—Yes.

35353. What did you hear?—I believe that in the Counties Down and Armagh, which I know best—

35354. Have you heard what were the results in the South?—No, not in the South and West of Ireland.

35355. Don't you think that the better plan would be to have continuous instruction for a few months rather than instruction for a few weeks?—Yes. That is why in the County Armagh we have got the agricultural classes started. The young farmers go to certain centres on three days in the week, and I believe that in this way they learn a great deal more than they could do in any other way.

35356. But surely the one school can only reach a very small number of those requiring the instruction?—Yes. I endeavored to get another school started at Forkhill, but could not get enough of pupils. The County Committee say that we must have twelve pupils. We could only get eight. In regard to the shirt factory at Mullaghbeg, the County Committee endeavored to subsidize it in every possible way. For two years the County Committee paid the salaries of two ladies from Manchester, who came over to teach our native girls how to make shirts. This year we have decided to pay the salary of only one instructor. At the end of the year we hope that the girls will know the work sufficiently well to do without further help.

35357. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—From your knowledge you are satisfied that the progress made in the factory is due to the improved instruction?—Yes. I went up to the place twice and saw it. It gives employment to from eighty to 100 girls, who would have to go to America if they did not get employment at home; so that I am quite satisfied that it is doing good work. I notice a great improvement in the breeding of poultry in this part of the district. As one of the hon. secretaries of our local show, I take a very keen interest in all matters pertaining to the improvement of live stock, and I also see a great improvement in all classes of live stock. Although our shows are entirely local we give from £500 to £600 a year in prizes, and I believe that that has tended to encourage the people to improve their stock.

35358. It has been money well spent?—I believe so. In the County Armagh prizes were given for small farmers and cottagers, but I am sorry to say that the people did not take up the scheme very heartily. There were only thirteen entries the first year, and twenty-five last year, and there are only twenty-six this year in the whole County of Armagh.

35359. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Have you got any egg stations in the County Armagh?—Yes. They have been a great success.

35360. How long have you got them?—Either three or four years.

35361. I suppose the scheme you carried out proceeded on the same lines as the scheme carried out by the Congested Districts Board in the West of Ireland?—I think so.

35362. Did you read the evidence of Mr. Porter of the Department of Agriculture as to the improvement of poultry?—I did not.

35363. Would you be surprised to hear he said that after three years all improvement of poultry disappeared notwithstanding the introduction of new blood?—I would not. If the people did not continue

improving the breed the improvement would disappear. You will not improve the breed permanently by improving it for three years and then dropping. You must endeavour to introduce new blood.

35364. You must keep on introducing new blood all the time?—Yes.

35365. New blood into new blood?—No; but if you keep the same stock and do not renew your stock it is bound to run out. At least that is my opinion about it.

35366. Do you find those who are engaged in the poultry trade in Armagh anxious to do that?—Yes. Not everyone, but a large number of people are endeavouring to improve their stock.

35367. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Do you think that a large number of people, in consequence of what has been done, have come to see that there is money in the improvement of their stock and of their holdings?—Yes.

35368. Where people believe that you think that their business will become a going concern?—I think so. In the northern portion of our county flax used to be extensively grown. It paid pretty well last year. This year there must be twice as much flax sown as last year. The County Committee gave prizes for growing flax last year. That was a great success. There were 100 entries in the county. On the whole my opinion is that the Department of Agriculture has done a great deal of good within the last few years. I have taken a very keen interest in this matter at all times, and have devoted all my spare time to it.

35369. I suppose you know that good things take a long time to come to perfection?—I think so. I am told by those who ought to know that Ireland is moving twice as quickly as England in the matter of agricultural improvement. In reference to the figures given by Mr. McGILL, in my opinion the four divisions of Forkhill, Killybeg, Joneboree, and Lathriget should be scheduled as congested areas. The population is very dense indeed. In the electoral divisions of Joneboree and Killybeg the area is 33,582 acres of which at least 3,000 acres would be mountain, and the population is 4,400. That would be about three acres to each person, including the mountain. The population is quite as dense in the other divisions, Forkhill and Lathriget. If you exclude the mountain you would have an average of one person to two acres.

35370. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Have you any suggestion to make as to the possible development of industries in those districts?—I don't know how you could do it without coming into competition with private enterprise. I think it would be desirable to encourage new industries for a short time, but after that if they are to succeed they must do so on their own merits.

35371. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Has not that been done in the past? Have not industries that came into competition with private interests been helped in the way suggested?—It is one case that I know of. That is the Mullaghbeg shirt factory.

35372. By whom was it subsidized?—By the Armagh County Committee acting under the Department of Agriculture. I believe that that money was well spent indeed. There was only temporary assistance given in that case, more or less to get the thing started. After it was started we got a firm of Manchester merchants to take charge of the whole place. They have taken it over on their own account, and if they fail it is their own fault.

35373. You do not see anything really wrong in subsidizing new industries?—No. In the case of new industries I think it desirable that they should be subsidized at first for a very limited time. After a couple of years if they cannot get on on their own account they must go down. I would like to hand in two maps of the County Armagh showing the number of premium bulls during the first year of the working of the Department of Agriculture and this year. These will show you the portions of our district that are entirely without premium bulls.

35374. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Are we to take it that the places where there are no bulls indicated on the map are the poorest places?—Yes; these are the parts of the county where the people are too poor to buy premium bulls. I would also like to hand in a copy of the last annual report of the Armagh County Committee in regard to the experimental work done last year and the working of the different schemes (hands in report).

May 16, 1905.

Mr. W. R. Bull.

May 14, 1907.

Mr. John
Lennon.

35375. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—You come from Mayo-bridge?—Yes. I represent Newry No. 1 District Council.

35376. Are you a farmer?—Yes; I farm about 70 acres. My valuation is £41.

35377. Would you kindly bring before the Commission any points that you wish to emphasise?—I would advocate road-making and also the construction of a railway from Newry to Castlewellan via Maybridge and Hilltown. An estate was sold at 15 years' purchase before the Act of 1903. Another estate adjoining that was offered since the Act of 1903 and the landlord wanted 57½ years. It is the desire of all farmers to become the owners of their land, by compulsion where necessary, at a fair price. It has the effect, in nearly all cases where tenants are in arrears, of raising the purchase price. I would advocate inspection in all cases. All the small holders are dependent on rent earned in America or elsewhere to pay the rent and the shopkeepers.

35378. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Do you till your farm?—I do.

35379. I am sure the Commission would be glad to know how many acres you till?—I till all except four or five acres that are mountain land. All my land is at an elevation of upwards of 500 feet.

35380. How many acres of your seventy would be tilled?—I cultivate all but about five acres.

35381. You say that is mountain land?—It was all mountain at one time.

35382. A great deal of these seventy acres is reclaimed land?—Yes.

35383. What class of tillage have you on it. Do you observe rotation of crops?—Yes.

35384. How many acres would be under roots in the year—a matured crop?—About five Irish acres.

35385. The rest of it would be in oats and grass and flax?—Very little flax and pasture.

35386. Do you stall-feed any cattle?—On a small scale.

35387. Do the farmers about you stall-feed cattle?—Not much about where I live.

35388. You do to some extent?—Very trifling.

35389. Do you know anyone who does there on a larger scale?—Yes; where the land is of a better quality.

35390. It is on the better land that the house-feeding process can be conducted?—You cannot have it on any other land.

35391. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—When you say your farm

is about seventy acres do you mean Irish acres?—No; English acres.

35392. What stock do you carry on an average?—About five milch cows, four two-year-olds, five or six year-olds, and three horses.

35393. You include the calves and yearlings?—Yes.

35394. Were the two-year-olds bred by you?—Yes.

35395. As a rule do you keep your cattle beyond two years old?—When I need the money I don't keep them.

35396. When you keep them beyond two years do you do sometimes finish them?—I do; a small quantity, perhaps two.

35397. Is it want of capital that deters you from keeping your cattle until they are fully finished?—Perhaps I need the money and I want sell them.

35398. Mr. O'KEEFE.—If you had the money you would not be in such a hurry to sell; you would finish them?—If I had pasture for them, or winter feeding; but you have to take all these things into consideration when you have had land.

35399. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Do you find where you till such a large proportion of your farm that you make enough manure for the farm with the stock you have told us of?—With the addition of artificial manure.

35400. You have to get artificial manure?—Certainly; in all cases.

35401. You have mentioned compulsion; you mean compulsion as to the price at which the landlord is to sell?—Yes.

35402. Do you mean also compulsion on the tenant to pay what annuity the Court thinks he ought to pay?—As a fair price.

35403. Say a landlord won't sell under 24 years' purchase, and a tenant won't give more than 18 years; you would apply compulsion to the landlord to make him sell. Suppose then the Inspector says, "You are both wrong; the landlord is asking too much, and you are not prepared to pay enough, and we will fix it at 21." Do you or do you not advocate in such a case that the tenant should be compelled to purchase at the price named?—I believe that that man or body of men should be compelled to make the price according to the quality of the land, and, of course, the tenant would have to put up with it.

35404. Therefore, you recognise that if you apply the principle of compulsion it cannot be against any particular class, but must be compulsion against everybody concerned?—Yes.

Mr. JOHN O'HANES examined.

Mr. John
O'Han.

35405. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—What is your address?—Corriga, Newry. I come here to represent the farmers of Barrow, in Warrenpoint rural electoral division. I wish to make the following statement with reference to the travelling lectures of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. I have been Chairman at many lectures held under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and I have no hesitation in saying that the number of people attending these lectures is largely made up of young boys who come more for amusement than instruction. For the past four or five years I have been a close observer of the method of farming carried on in this (the Barrow) district, and I have come to the conclusion that no improvement whatever has been effected in the system adopted, notwithstanding the fact that during this period we have had a considerable number of lectures from the instructors of the Agricultural Department. In the beginning the older people come to the lectures, but when they saw the theoretical nature of the instruction, in some cases of an impractical character, they stopped away. So now scarcely any only young boys come, practically to have a night's sport. Although not productive of much good, still in a small and limited way these lectures have aroused a certain scientific spirit of inquiry among a certain section of the farmers. In that way the lectures have been of some good.

35406. Mr. O'KEEFE.—What form of instruction are you referring to?—Agricultural instruction principally. It is not the instructors I am quarrelling with; it is the system.

35407. Did you hear the evidence of Mr. Bell?—I quite disagree with Mr. Bell. Of course, he has more experience than I have.

35408. Are you a member of the Agricultural Instruction Committee?—No. I attend a technical school.

35409. Have you the same experience as Mr. Bell?—No. I have been living in a country district, and can form an opinion.

35410. Is your knowledge formed from your own experience, or what you have heard about other parts?—My own experience, and what I have read about other parts.

35411. Would you disagree with Mr. Bell when he says that his experience of the lectures is different from yours?—I would.

35412. Although you don't know what goes on there?—I have read in the papers what goes on in other places.

35413. As a member of the Committee, would not Mr. Bell have special opportunities for judging what goes on in these places?—I don't believe he would.

35414. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—You give your experience?—Yes. If Mr. Bell was present at one of these lectures I would say he would have more experience than I.

35415. While you think the theoretical instruction is not of much service, does any form of practical instruction occur to you as suitable for recommendation?—Yes. I think the small classes referred to by Mr. Bell, if properly supervised, would

be useful. Grown-up boys could attend these lectures, and then be brought to these plots and shown how these things are practically done.

35416. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—When you talk of boys do you mean young men?—Boys of about seventeen.

35417. Don't you think as the future is with the youth of the country that it is a very good thing that the youth of the country should come to these lectures?—They don't pay that attention that an older person would pay to a lecture.

35418. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You consider that lectures containing theory should be largely supplemented by practical demonstrations?—Quite so.

35419. Would you think that there should be stations or farms which should be conducted according to a system of model instruction?—That is my point.

35420. Develop anything you wish to say in that?—Anything practical would be much better than this theoretical instruction. The whole thing is given in highly scientific language, which I do not think these boys understand. Woods like sulphuric acid occur very frequently. Very often I question the boys about it afterwards, and they know no more about it than about astronomy.

35421. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—You think it is over their heads?—Yes.

35422. One witness said that these things might as well be in Greek?—I quite agree with that.

35423. Mr. O'KEAR.—The same witness said you would get more practical instruction from the columns of the Weekly Freeman?—I quite agree with that. With regard to the question of educating this district as suggested, I beg to submit for your consideration the following:—The roads are very bad—extremely rough and hilly. The land is in the main reclaimed mountain or bog. A great drawback is the absence of peat. On the smallest calculation it takes 67 to 816 per annum to supply each household with coal. There are no industries. Even the granite quarries in the neighbourhood of Newry have ceased to give employment to a large number of workmen. The rates are high. The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction requires a contribution of a penny in the pound from the rates. This is a considerable amount to spend on schemes that possibly are not of very much value to farmers. I would suggest that this penny in the pound should be spent by the Congested Districts Board, in case this district comes within their jurisdiction, in instruction in lace-work, crochet, or some form of home industry of a more practical nature than on purely theoretical lectures on agriculture.

35424. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—The Congested Districts Board has no power to levy a rate at all?—Suppose as a result of the recommendations of this Commission the Congested Districts Board had the power to take over the control of industries and had the power of applying this money, it would be better spent in the way I suggest than by giving it to the Department of Agriculture. It would be well spent money.

35425. What is to happen the rest of the county that is not congested?—They would have the power of having their own schemes. I would eliminate them from the rest of the county.

35426. You would take it out of the county administration?—Yes, as far as that side would be concerned. In 1900 the teaching of agriculture was taken out of the National schools and handed over to the Department, so that you are making the Department pay for work that could be very easily done in the National schools.

35427. We have had a great deal of evidence on that point. The contention is that a great deal of the necessary preliminary knowledge of agriculture could be taught with advantage in the primary schools?—Yes.

35428. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would you go further, and say, with the object of inducing the people to stay at home and work on the farms instead of emigrating, that it would be a very good thing if the boys who belong to the farming class, or as a body, get in the National schools not only theoretical teaching in the principles of agriculture, but some practical training in agriculture?—I have on several occasions advocated the establishment of school gardens, but my recommendations were only

to local people, who had no power in the matter. I have always considered that a great opportunity was lost in not training up boys in agricultural districts to habits of practical agriculture.

35429. The garden is important, but would you not go further than a garden, and say that in each parish there should be a central place where the growing boys may without interference with their literary work use their hands in practical farming?—Certainly.

35430. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—You say you mentioned this locally to your friends; did they agree with you?—I was chairman at these meetings, and I pointed out to the people that I considered these lectures unsatisfactory in a sense, and that in my opinion it would be better if the instructor could come round and give practical demonstration of the work on the ground.

35431. My question had reference to your proposal with regard to National schools; you said you had no power in the matter, but you talked to people about it. What I wish to know is, did the people to whom you talked take the same view as you?—Yes. The holdings in most cases in the district to which I refer are small. There is scarcely a farmer who has not one of his sons or daughters in England, Scotland, or America. The following figures are taken from the Valuation Book. For the Warrenpoint Rural Electoral Division I have chosen three townlands as typical of the whole division. (a) Corragh, area 676 acres; valuation, £376 10s.; average valuation, £4 10s. or, in other words, about 21 1/2 pence per head. (b) Barnan, area 740 acres; valuation, £406; average, £4 8s. per head. (c) Carrickmaddy, area 538 acres; valuation, £299 14s.; average, £4 3s. So that we can reasonably conclude that in (b) and (c) the average per head is under £1 5. There are 120 grown-up people at home, and fifty-five away, so that out of every three adults one is away.

35432. What do you call grown up?—People fit to work; over twenty years of age. There are 110 of these people at home and fifty-five away, which is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs.

35433. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Where are these people who have gone away?—In England, Scotland, and America.

35434. Would they be in the main people who come back from year to year, or people who have emigrated to America?—Some of them come back, but the majority have gone away and do not come back, or at least do not return for a considerable time.

35435. Mr. O'KEAR.—Do you mean to say the conditions in the three townlands you have mentioned are reproduced in the other townlands of this division?—Yes, and I went back to the Assistant Clerk of the Union, and he took up a townland at random, and said, "take that," and I found that the average valuation there was £3 15s., which is much lower than the three I had already taken. This is the townland of Fermoysherry. The conclusion is that these townlands should be selected as congested.

35436. I find that taking the entire of Warrenpoint rural district electoral division the valuation is £5,760 and the population 1,440, so that it works out at nearly £4 per head instead of £1 5s. a head as in the townlands which you say are typical?—I did not go into the total.

35437. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You do not contend that the whole of the Warrenpoint rural division is as poor as the townlands you have given?—There is not a great lot of difference. There is Milltown, for example, even worse. There are others up in the direction of the mountains. I have taken these in the lower portion of it.

35438. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—You are taking typical townlands here and there?—Yes.

35439. Mr. O'KEAR.—I understood you to suggest that all the other townlands included in the electoral division of Warrenpoint are merely a replica of the three to which you made reference?—From the point of view of appearance they are; from the agricultural point of view and from the number of holdings and so on, they may appear to be so.

35440. I am only pointing out a discrepancy in the figures?—I have taken the figures from the rate books with the assistance of the assistant clerk, Mr. O'Hare, and I got the same figures from an independent source. Quite recently, some negotiations have been

May 16, 1907

Mr John O'Hare.

May 16, 1907.

Mr. John
O'Hare.

going on with reference to the sale of some portions of this district, but the landlords and tenants were unable to come to terms. In one townland in particular, some of the farmers are three or four or perhaps five years in arrears of rent. There is a considerable portion of this district taken up by bogs and mountains. I would respectfully suggest in case this district comes within the jurisdiction of your Board—(a.) That instruction in such industries as lace work, machine-knitting and "hamespuns" should be given. (b.) That encouragement should be given to a little local industry—brick-making. There is a small brick-making concern that was closed up about twenty years ago, but it has been re-opened during the past year. If the district down there is suitable in the matter of clay, for the work on a large scale, the Congested Districts Board might take it up, and it would supply the demand in Warrington, Bury, and neighbouring towns, and would be a source of employment to the district.

35441. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Where was the brick got from to build this place?—From Belfast.

35442. Have you any reason to think that there is a large area of clay suitable for brick-making, or is there only a small area?—The man who is working it now only owns a small portion. I can only conclude that the neighbouring fields contain the same sort of clay. I would also suggest that the waste portion of the land should be planted with trees.

35443. What do you mean by the waste portion?—Crops and portions on the hills that cannot be cultivated.

35444. Are these portions fit for sheep?—Hardly; say, half an acre on the side of a hill. If you put sheep there they destroy neighbouring crops. It would add warmth to the district to have it planted, and there would be also the value of the timber.

35445. Mr. O'KELLY.—The County Council appoints the County Committee. What is the principle of representation of the districts on the agricultural committee?—I could not say that.

Mr. O'KELLY.—If you represented your views to the local committee I am sure they would be quite willing to assist.

Mr. P. O'Hare.—I would like to mention a question that was asked as to whether it would be fair to compel the landlords to sell at such rents as the Congested Districts Board might consider fair and reasonable and likely to be paid. My impression is it would be fair to compel landlords to sell at a reasonable rate. Owing to the good reason that the land was made by the tenant and that the rent was raised on him it should be reduced proportionately now. If it is not reduced to such a rent that the people can pay, it will come on the occupiers ultimately and bankrupt the county at large in the long run.

35446. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—You qualify it by saying reasonable?

Mr. P. O'Hare.—Yes. If the best land of the country is being sold at 24 or 25 years' purchase the very poor land should be sold at a much lower price.

The Commission adjourned.

SEVENTY-SECOND PUBLIC SITTING.

SATURDAY, MAY 18TH, 1907,

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK A.M.

In the Courthouse, Castledillon, County Down.

Present:—The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLSON, K.C.M.G. (in the Chair); Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL;
JOHN ANNAN BRUCE, Esq., M.P.; CONOR O'KELLY, Esq., M.P.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Rev. R. J. MURPHY examined.

May 18 1907.

Rev. R. J.
Murphy.

35450. Sir JOHN COLSON (in the Chair).—What district do you represent?—I am Parish Priest of Lower Mourne, and my address is Glasdrummond, Antrim, County Down. I have been deputed by the Kilkeel District Council to tender evidence on the composition of the barony of Mourne, which is bounded on the one side by the mountains, and on the other side by the sea. It is about thirteen and a half miles in length, and the breadth varies to about eight or nine miles. The principal object of my evidence will be to prove that the entire barony of Mourne is a congested district in accordance with the definition of Section 5, Sub-Section 5 of the Land Act of 1903, viz.:—"An estate not less than half of the area of which consists of holdings not exceeding £5 in rateable value, or of mountain or bog land." Now, according to this definition, the whole of Lower Mourne, from Newcastle at one end to the Kilkeel River at the other, is congested, and includes the townlands of Ballaghassery, Glasdrummond, Mullertown, Moneydunmore, Moneydunbeg, Ballymarnagh, Ballyveighmore, Ballyveighbeg, Ballyveighbeg, Bracknagh, Carganagh, Ballykool, Magheragh, and Moor, two-thirds of all the holdings in these townlands being from £5 down in rateable value.

35451. In what union are these townlands?—Kilkeel.

35452. Are they townlands or electoral divisions?—They are townlands. There are only two electoral divisions—Mullertown and Ballykool.

35453. These include the townlands which you named?—Yes, and Magheragh and Carganagh, and the reason I give these is, they are contained in my parish of Lower Mourne. The Kilkeel River separates the two parishes. Taking those two townlands and the two electoral divisions, the total number of holdings would be 1,321, and 1,015 of those holdings are rated from £5 down, and only 305 over £5, which means that two-thirds are under £5.

35454. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Father Murphy, as a matter of fact in two of those electoral divisions that you have named the valuation per head is under the standard fixed for a congested district. In one it is £1 5s. 12d per head, and the other is £1 4s. 3d., and I suppose we may take it the two townlands which you propose to add from the electoral division of Kilkeel, are low in proportion to the valuation in the other cases?—Oh, no. I can give the valuation. For example, take Magheragh. There are seventy-nine holdings altogether, thirty-eight under £5 and forty-one over £5.

35455. In these two electoral divisions, together with the two townlands which you have taken from Kilkeel, three-fourths of the holdings are rated at £5 and under?—Yes, my lord. Coming to what is called Upper Mourne, which consists of a large number of townlands—there are forty, practically.

35456. Mr. BRUCE.—Where is Upper Mourne?—From Kilkeel river to Causeway Water, bordering Killybeg, down to Greenacree.

35457. Sir JOHN COLSON.—That is in the electoral division of Kilkeel?—Yes. The whole of Upper Mourne practically is congested according to the definition of the Act of 1903, but not at all to the same extent as Lower Mourne.

35458. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Two electoral divisions answer the definition given in the original Act—the Congested Districts Board (1891) Act?—Yes.

35459. Mr. O'KELLY.—What do you describe as Upper Mourne?—All that district from the town of Kilkeel between the Kilkeel River and the Causeway Water which divides it from Killybeg.

35460. Mr. BRUCE.—The Causeway Water comes in at Rostrevor?—Four miles outside Rostrevor—this side of it; half way between Rostrevor and Greenacree.

35461. The poor holdings are those which are on the mountain side?—They are.

35462. That is right along the coast?—Right along the coast.

35463. On the coast itself?—Yes. In the barony of Upper Mourne the holdings total 1,697, including mountain and lowland. Out of that 1,697 there are 894 holdings of £5 and under.

35464. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Why do you take £5?—It comes under the definition of the Act of 1903, stating what a congested district is. There are 805 over £5; so that that goes to prove that the barony of Upper Mourne is congested according to the definition, as more than half are under £5. Of course the poor part is the mountain district, in which there are forty townlands. There are 665 holdings in that mountain district, and 327 of those holdings are from £5 down, and only 338 over £5.

35465. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I suppose if you went to £10 you would find under that limit the great bulk of the holdings?—You would, certainly. If I took Lower Mourne I would not have forty holdings over £10; in fact I have only fourteen over £10.

35466. Sir JOHN COLSON.—In the district of Upper Mourne you have mentioned twelve districts?—Twelve townlands.

35467. These are the townlands you draw special attention to?—Yes, I have been asked to draw special attention to those. The land in Lower Mourne, save what lies adjacent to the main road, is poor and damp and moory, being all reclaimed, yet still requiring draining and liming to make it capable of producing fair crops. The same is true of the mountainous districts in Upper Mourne. Many holdings might be improved by being to reclaim the waste land. In Upper Mourne it is all reclaimed from moor land, and the same applies to a large portion of the land in Lower Mourne.

35468. Mr. BRUCE.—Reclaimed by the tenants?—Yes; and in fact one farmer told me he paid the rent for his father on part of this land at half-a-crown an acre. Of course that is a considerable time ago—fifty years ago. It was raised to twenty-two shillings. Practically the whole of Mourne has been reclaimed. The mountain land requires draining very badly.

35469. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Is there limestone there?—There is no limestone there. They have limestone out in the little islands near Greenacree.

35470. How far is Greenacree, for supplying lime, to this district you bring under the notice of the Commission?—About five or six miles.

May 18, 1907.

Rev. R. J.
Murphy

35471. Mr. BATE.—To some parts a great deal more!—Yes, some far more.

35472. Mr. O'KEEFE.—The greater part of the holdings are unenclosed!—Oh, certainly.

35473. It would be impossible, I suppose, to enlarge the holdings there—are there any grass lands?—We have no unenclosed land, and I don't think the people would migrate.

35474. How then would you propose to make the holdings economic?—I will tell you that in a moment.

35475. What would be the advantage of having this district subdivided under the Congested Districts Board considering that at present it is exempt to the definition of congestion under the Land Act of 1903?—Well, to benefit the fishermen on the one hand, and on the other hand to reclaim some of this mountain land and to foster the industries that are there.

35476. Of course a body like the Congested Districts Board could do that whereas a body like the Estates Commissioners could hardly be expected to do it?—Yes.

35477. Are those fishermen the occupiers of some of these uneconomic holdings?—Only a few of them.

35478. Sir JOHN COTTON.—I would like to return to the question of liming and draining. Do you mean arterial drainage and that the occupiers require an outfall for their drains?—No. I do not think it requires arterial drainage.

35479. Then it is drainage of the farm?—Yes. And there is plenty of fall for this.

35480. It would not involve expenditure on large works for arterial drainage?—No.

35481. You wish to see the farms better drained?—Yes.

35482. If it is to their advantage why don't the small holders do it?—The difficulty is this, that they work at the stone trade either at cutting stones or dressing them. It would not pay them to leave that and spend the time in reclaiming the land or draining it. They do a little at it now and again.

35483. If the district were put under the Congested Districts Board, how would they overcome that difficulty?—I presume the Congested Districts Board have powers to help a congested district.

35484. Supposing the Board had charge of the district here, how are they to get labour to apply to those holdings?—I presume those who have the holdings would certainly help. I consider they would.

35485. The difficulty of labour would confront them unless they brought it in?—I think the people would be inclined to help. They would be very foolish if they would not.

35486. How would that affect the general question?—It would affect it if the stone trade, which is not as good at all as it has been, or near as good, were to fail those people would be thrown entirely back upon the land, and the land in itself would not support them. Therefore, if it were not improved they could not live.

35487. If the stone trade failed that would release the labour for the drainage of the farm?—It would.

35488. It would result in the better drainage of the farm?—It would, but in the meantime the men could not starve.

35489. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What do those men earn by the stone trade?—There is a summer trade, that is, working at kerb-stone, and at that they earn eighteen shillings to a pound. Those who work at scilla in the summer earn about twenty-five shillings per week. Three or four years ago those working at scilla were earning £5 per week, but it is only about half that now.

35490. What do the ordinary quarrymen earn?—About fourteen shillings per week.

35491. You consider it a good thing for the people to have that employment?—They would not be in the country if they had not got it. They could not live by the land.

35492. It is not such a steady employment as the land?—It is not.

35493. You could not be sure of it?—No.

35494. The fact that you are not sure of the stone trade as a source of income in the townlands you have named you consider to be a reason why there should be an effort made to make the most of the land?—Certainly.

35495. To make the most of the land you have pointed out the need for drainage and liming; the drainage should go before the liming?—Yes. The

land is cold and must be drained first and limed afterwards.

35496. You have told Sir JOHN arterial drainage is not required, but drainage of the farms?—I think so.

35497. You consider it would be wise to give some encouragement to these farmers to drain their own farms?—I think so.

35498. Would you think a prize system in the district would do the work best?—I don't know how that would work. It comes simply to a question with these people of what would serve them best for the moment. If the work would serve them best they would pay no heed to the prize.

35499. We can understand there would be a time when the work would not be very brisk in the quarter?—Yes. At one time the work was very much greater than now.

35500. Are all the men of the families employed?—By no means.

35501. Therefore, it would look wise to give encouragement to the available labour to expend itself on drainage without interfering with the quarrymen?—Yes.

35502. Do you think the most advantageous way of giving assistance would be by a grant proportionate to the expense?—It would. Even a small grant would be a far greater encouragement than prizes.

35503. You recommend a little subsidy covering part of the expenditure?—I consider that would be the best.

35504. You think the district so poor, and the holdings so much under the economic level that a public body would be justified in giving portion of the expense of drainage?—I consider they would.

35505. Bearing on that, once a small holding was drained and reclaimed do you think that the men there have sufficient agricultural education and so practical enough to make the most of the holding?—They have.

35506. They would not require much instruction?—No.

35507. They have about them the County Dews, which is so well filled in the lowlands?—Yes.

35508. Is there anything else that would occur to you as useful to induce the small farmer to make the most of those reclaimed mountain sides. Do they require improved breeds of stock?—At present the County Council helps in that line and the stock is certainly has improved within the last few years.

35509. The industry is that of the stone?—Stone and fishing.

35510. Is there any for women?—Yes; the women engage at lettering headstitches in their own homes, but get very small remuneration—about three shillings per week.

35511. Sir JOHN COTTON.—They do it in their own time?—They work all day.

35512. To make two or three shillings per week?—Yes. I met a girl the other day and I asked her and she told me some weeks she made four shillings, some only three, and others two, and this girl is waiting from morning until night.

35513. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The land is the permanent source of income for this population, and you think it would be well for a public body to give encouragement to the farmers to induce them to drain and improve the land to its utmost capacity?—Certainly. The stone trade has largely disappeared because the Belfast Waterworks catchment area has taken away the best quarries we had. They got the power to get the catchment by Act of Parliament.

35514. Mr. BAXTER.—Were they not bound to get compensation?—To the landlord. There was little or no compensation besides, and that even would be no compensation for the loss to the district by the number of quarries for kerb-stones closed. The quarries that remain are mostly surface quarries, alongside the mountain, hard to get at, and with bad roads to them.

35515. Sir JOHN COTTON.—I suppose as there is a demand for those stones that when some quarries were closed, owing to the reservoirs, others were opened to supply the place?—They spread others, but not at all equal to the ones closed, or to be compared with them.

35516. Am we to take it that the acquisition of the quarries reduced the demand for labour and led to emigration?—It led to emigration, certainly.

35517. When were the quarries closed?—They were closed in 1902 or 1903.

35518. Was there a marked increase of emigration since 1902 or 1903?—Yes.

35519. Is that continuing?—It is continuing. A great many of those stone men now go off to America.

35520. Taking the last three or four years of the last century, 1897, and so on, is emigration very much more now than then?—Yes.

35521. You attribute that to the closing of the quarries?—Yes. The people of Lower Mourne lost valuable pastures by the closing in of the catchment between Newmarket and Killard along the coast at Glashinnish and the Annalong River.

35522. And that reduces the fuel in the district?—They have no peat at all now, and must buy coal at a pound per ton.

35523. Do you mean to say in these poor districts the fact of the Belfast Waterworks acquiring the area has changed the fuel used by the people from peat to coal?—Yes.

35524. Mr. BURCK.—Was there any compensation paid to the tenants for that?—They got a little compensation—only a few pounds. It belonged to the landlord, Lord Killymore.

35525. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Then they have no fuel but coal?—No.

35526. And what do they pay for coal?—At present it is a pound per ton.

35527. Mr. BURCK.—It is very dear at present. Where were those granite sets shipped from?—From Annalong.

35528. Do the people from Upper Mourne and parts of Lower Mourne go up to those quarries to work there every day?—The people of Lower Mourne do, the people of Upper Mourne have no quarries at all.

35529. So far as they are concerned, they never depended on that?—No; they depended on the mountain district and sheep, principally.

35530. Each holding has so much mountain pasture attached?—They have one particular mountain, and it was let by the landlord to some of the tenants, who charged sixpence per head for the sheep. At present the estate is almost bought out. The whole of the mountains belong to Lord Killymore.

35531. Sir JOHN COOKE.—As a general rule, are the small holdings now occupied by purchasing tenants?—The final settlement has not been made. We sold through the Estates Commissioners, indirectly, and a price was offered for the whole of Lower Mourne and Upper Mourne—twenty-one and twenty-four years' purchase.

35532. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And the mountain?—Yes; at twenty years' purchase.

35533. Would it be put under a Committee of the tenants?—Yes, trustees.

35534. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Is the position, generally that there has been an agreement signed between landlords and tenants, and the tenants have not received the vesting order, and the landlord has not received his money yet?—That is the position.

35535. And they are not yet in the position of peasant proprietors, but are paying interest on the purchase?—Yes—three and a half per cent.

35536. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That applies to Upper Mourne, where the mountain is very important?—Yes. They could not do without the mountain at all. The small farmers mainly rely on the sheep to graze on the mountain. The mountain is in fact the most important item.

35537. Now, they have made sure, I take it, that all rights over those mountains are conveyed to the tenants?—Not the sporting rights, which are reserved to the landlord, so far.

35538. Then the grazing right is to be conveyed by the tenants when they become purchasers, and the management is to be in the hands of trustees?—Yes; trustees named by the tenants, and one by the landlord. The trustees will have to engage a herd for the mountain, and the tenants will pay so much per head for the sheep, which will pay all expenses and the annuity. They are quite willing to give twenty years' purchase for the mountain.

35539. They have made their own committee?—They have been nominated and sent to the Land Commission.

35540. Are they at work?—Not yet, because the final settlement has not taken place.

35541. The exact plan by which they are going to work this important business of exercising control over

the grazing of the mountains would be a matter of May 18, 1907.

35542. Mr. BURCK.—As I understand, the agreements have been signed?—The final agreement has not been signed.

35543. What agreement is signed?—Only the preliminary agreement. The estate has been valued. A Commissioner was sent down, and the Land Commission and the trustees of the estate settle the matter now.

35544. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Did the landlord sell to the Estates Commissioners the whole property, after having made a preliminary agreement?—An offer was made to the tenants and they made an offer of twenty-one and twenty-four years' purchase, and then the estate had to be valued after that by the Commissioner, and he laid his value before the Land Commission, and it is for them to decide whether it is worth the price offered or not.

35545. Mr. BURCK.—There has been inspection, and it is not sold within the month?—It was.

35546. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Then, how does there come to be inspection?—The whole of the people did not agree to buy at the price—only about three-fourths; and unless the whole of them agreed to the price it would not be sold except indirectly and by inspection.

35547. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Was it represented to the Estates Commissioners that a considerable tract of the estate was practically congested under the definition of the Act of 1903?—It was not represented to them yet.

35548. The whole of the tenants did not agree to buy, and was it the case that the landlord, under those circumstances, applied to the Estates Commissioners to buy the property in order that the Estates Commissioners might apply the law of compelling the one-fourth who did not agree to fall into line?—Yes.

35549. Now, the whole thing is suspended pending the valuation?—Yes, for the final decision of the Estates Commissioners.

35550. Now, as to the mountain, the small tenant had certain rights?—He had no rights to the mountain, which belonged to the landlord. The landlord let it to a tenant.

35551. Mr. BURCK.—At an extra rent?—Yes, and then this tenant took an extra sheep on it as he liked, at so much per head.

35552. Sir JOHN COOKE.—The landlord reserved the mountain to himself, and let out the grazing to the tenants at so much per head?—Yes, through one of the tenants.

35553. That being the position before the sale, when they agreed to the sale, did each tenant have his right to so much grazing per head?—No; that was not taken into account at all.

35554. Mr. BURCK.—It was let to one tenant, who took on the graziers?—Yes.

35555. That tenant was the middleman?—Yes.

35556. Sir JOHN COOKE.—What I want to know is how the right of grazing is secured by the tenants?—The mountain will belong to the tenants as a whole, and the trustees will represent the tenants and the landlord, who will have a representative as a matter of form. It will be for the trustees to decide the number of sheep and the price per head.

35557. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Has the purchasing price to each tenant been fixed?—No. That will be from the payment of the sheep on the mountain. Then the money will go to the trustees and they will pay the annuity for the whole territory.

35558. Mr. O'KELLY.—Who are the trustees and by whom are they appointed?—They are appointed by the people. I was asked to get some of the people to name three or four trustees.

35559. Is there anything about that in the agreement?—It was stated that the trustees were to have charge of the mountain.

35560. Was the mode of election mentioned?—No.

35561. That was left to consideration?—Yes.

35562. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Are the trustees responsible to the Estates Commissioners for the payment of the annuity on the purchase money of the mountain?—They will. It will not be a very large amount.

35563. They will be in the position of letting the mountain as before?—You may put it that way.

35564. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—There may be either a vesting order to each individual tenant or

May 16, 1907.

Rev. R. J.
Keogh.

a general vesting order to the trustees of the tenants.

Is the latter what has been done?—Yes.

35566. Mr. BURKE.—I do not understand how those trustees can take upon themselves this permanent obligation of paying an annuity when they have got no agreement with the tenants as to the share they are going to take under the obligation?—As far as the annuity goes it is only a very small amount. The sheep would easily pay it.

35567. Suppose sheep were to go down?—The trustees have power to resign and throw the whole thing on the tenants.

35568. The tenants are under no obligation?—The tenants have agreed to twenty years' purchase and the money they pay indirectly. I am only explaining what has taken place.

35569. How are they bound, because the agreement between the landlord and the trustees as going to be a document which does not bind the tenants?—I could not answer that, but the tenants will be most willing to pay for this mountain even more so than for their own land.

35570. Must Rev. Dr. O'Donnell?—Are not the trustees appointed by and agents for the tenants?—Yes.

35571. Consequently through them the tenants contract a responsibility?—Yes; they do.

35572. Mr. BURKE.—This mountain includes the whole of the mountains of the barony of Moorse, I mean Slieve Donard and all the rest of them?—The chain of them is right along.

35573. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You say the sheep will more than cover the annuity, but let me assume you have a surplus. Are the trustees bound to refund that to the tenants?—I presume they would be bound.

35574. How?—I expect the tenants would look for it. They would have to come to a certain understanding to pay so much less and only pay what would cover expenses.

35575. Suppose the trustees refused to take a lesser sum. The tenants could not compel the trustees to let the sheep go on the mountain?—They could not.

35576. Do you think if there was a struggle between the trustees and the tenants for some months, who would be likely to give in first?—The trustees.

35577. You would not think it would be the tenants?—No.

35578. Don't you think the tenants would suffer?—I don't think they would allow themselves to suffer.

35579. Must Rev. Dr. O'Donnell?—In there not the same prospect of sheep-rearing continuing as of the farming industry itself?—Yes.

35580. Therefore it is problematical to speak of it ceasing?—Yes.

35581. And the Land Commission would be likely to look on it as permanent?—Yes.

35582. Sir JOHN CONNORS.—The tenant does not acquire any prospective right for grazing on the mountain at all in signing his agreement?—He certainly does acquire a prospective right.

35583. Is it a defined right for so many sheep?—I could not tell you what arrangement they may make amongst themselves. I presume it will be according to the value of the mountain in grazing and according to the man's holding.

35584. Supposing I am a 54 holder in one of these glens and I have so much grazing on the mountain, and now, when I sign the agreement to buy my own holding do I also get any guarantee by my paying so much that I will have a continuing right to so many sheep on that mountain or not?—I think the number will not be mentioned.

35585. There is no unincumbered land?—No; and I do not think any of the people would migrate.

35586. But many holdings might be improved by helping to reclaim the waste land?—Yes.

35587. Have these holdings the waste land attached to them?—Along the mountains certainly.

35588. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Why would they not migrate?—I cannot tell you that.

35589. Too much attached?—They are very much attached to their holdings, and if they can get a bit of land near them at all in Moorse they will have it.

35590. The objection would be purely sentimental?—Yes; very strongly so.

35591. Mr. BURKE.—This waste land is part of the mountain?—No; it is from the foot of the mountain down to the valley. It is heather and stones and moss.

35592. Which has never been reclaimed?—Yes.

35593. No stock feeding on it, or sheep or cattle?—

Sheep may run over it, but they get very little on it.

35594. Sir JOHN CONNORS.—Do I understand you to say that those small holdings include a considerable area of waste land?—They do not as a rule.

35595. Some do?—Yes.

35596. You consider it best to reclaim that waste land?—I would say if the people had other work it would not pay them to reclaim it.

35597. You mean the land is so bad that it would not pay to reclaim it?—Some of it could not be reclaimed it is so bad. There is no bottom in it, it is all stones.

35598. You say they are far away from a good market town and suffer for want of proper transit facilities?—Yes.

35599. You say, "The farming classes suffer considerably in being far away from a good market town owing to the want of public transit, and are depending on the prices they may receive in Killybeg, a small town into which few, if any, buyers from a distance come." How could you possibly suppose that?—The remedy I have been told would be a line of railway either to bring more buyers into Killybeg, or give opportunities for the people taking their produce into Newry, which is a good market town. Killybeg is about the centre of Moorse and about fourteen miles from Newry, and it is the market town on the one side; and on the other side is Castlewellan, and then the mountains through Rathfriland. They are all about the same distance.

35600. Have you ever happened to be in the western part of Donegal, or the western part of Galway and Mayo?—I was through Mayo and Galway.

35601. How would you compare your district with Gortanna or Carran?—Would you say they are as comfortable?—I would say certainly the people of Moorse are better off.

35602. Mr. BURKE.—Is there a railway from Newry to Rossmore?—There is to Warrenpoint.

35603. That would be the shortest distance from Newmarket to Warrenpoint?—It would be also a great benefit for the fishery in getting the fish quickly to the market.

35604. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Was that proposal ever brought before the public?—I believe there was a railway mapped out some years ago.

35605. Were any steps taken to direct the attention of the Government to it?—No.

35606. The proposal is now revived in your evidence?—Yes. We have a large number of men and their families depending on fishing for a living, some on winter fishing for white fish and summer fishing for herring, but in both there is a great falling off.

For example, twenty years ago there were over thirty huggers fishing for herrings in the summer time, and now there are only about twelve from Killybeg. With regard to the winter fishing, twenty years ago there were about twenty skiffs with seven men each, and now about eight between Lower Moorse and Killybeg.

35607. Mr. BURKE.—What was the winter fishing?—Haddock and whiting.

35608. With long lines?—What destroyed the winter fishing was steam trawlers. According to the fishermen they destroyed the spawn and very often they tow away their lines. The fishermen had 1800 or no redress or none at all.

35609. Sir JOHN CONNORS.—All that, I presume, has been brought before the Fishery Department in Dublin?—Yes; part of it has. In consequence of this falling off of the fishing one hundred fishermen go every year to the Scotch summer fishing, as they have no work at home. That helps to tide many of them over the winter.

35610. Mr. BURKE.—Do they go to the east coast—Peterhead, Buckie, and other places?—Yes. From Aberdeen up.

35611. They take wages probably on some differential?—Yes.

35612. Sailing boats?—I think they are sailing boats. I think the take is divided up among them some way. I think the owner gets half share.

35613. Sir JOHN CONNORS.—Do you think the fish have changed their locations?—The herring fishing fell off on that account, and the winter fishing fell off to the steam trawling—that is what the fishermen say.

35614. You are aware that there are certain powers conferred by Act of Parliament upon the Fishery Board with regard to steam trawlers, and has any

representation been made on the subject from here?—A question was asked in Parliament about it.

35615. Mr. BAYNE.—Do they fish inside the three miles limit?—Yes.

35616. Is it a matter of polling if the Fishery Board have the cleaner on the spot?—They come at night and they make off quickly.

35617. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Has the Fishery Board ever taken any steps to prevent that being done?—Very little.

35618. Would you say the Fishery Board are guilty of dereliction of duty?—Yes.

35619. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—My point is, has this been brought officially before the Department, and, if so, have any steps been taken to prevent this travelling?—A question was asked in Parliament.

35620. Mr. O'KEEFE.—A question was addressed to the Minister responsible for the Department of Agriculture, and surely that was the most effective way of bringing it before the Fishery Board.

Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—I have been too long in Parliament to take that view.

Mr. O'KEEFE.—As a member of the same House I have not much faith in it myself.—Even Mr. Green, head of the Fishery Department, was told. We had him down examining Wreckport, to get him to make a safe ship for the boats getting in and out.

35621. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—When was he down here?—Here is his letter of 21st October, 1904.

35622. That is about five years?—Yes, he came down three years ago. And we gave him all the information about the steam trawlers. I was there myself.

35623. Mr. BAYNE.—What did he say?—He said nothing about it. You see by the letter he was most anxious to have some improvement, and we were to get a winch for hauling up the boats, but nothing has ever been done.

35624. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—Was it the case that they were waiting for the county to give something?—The county did offer, and they did not then come forward with their part.

35625. You know that?—I know that, as a matter of fact. In fact it is one of the most important things we do want—a ship. In the winter time, in Wreckport, they have simply a narrow creek.

35626. At the time the fishery was successful here, and the men well employed, there was no pier, and they did without it?—Yes, they had Amalgam then. It is a harbour, but Amalgam is now congested, with fifteen or sixteen counters, that take away stones and bring other things in. They occupy the whole harbour, and the fishermen were put out of it.

Mr. BAYNE.—I think the proper people to contribute to this would be the Belfast Waterworks, who took away the stone and turf.

MR. CHARLES R. GREENE EXAMINED.

35644. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—Will you kindly give your address and tell the Commission what it is you think most important that they should know?—My address is Clough, County Down, in the Union of Downpatrick. The land in the greater part of the electoral divisions of Castlewellan, excluding the town, Dunmore, Necosomer, and Seaside, in this union, is rough, rocky, and inclining to be mountainous, and the population is steadily declining. As all the farms are under tillage and there is not, that I am aware of, any extenuated land in the district, the question of migration has not been considered, and I need not enter on it. I suggested that those electoral divisions be treated as a congested area mainly for the purpose of enabling advances to be made for the improvement of the dwellings or office-houses of the small occupiers under £20 valuation. I may say the greatest portion of all the farms are under £20 valuation in those districts. Fifty per cent. of the money so advanced should be a free gift and easy terms of repayment made for the remainder.

35645. Are you a farmer yourself?—I am.

35646. What is your valuation and acreage?—Fifty-six pounds valuation and thirty-eight Irish (statute three statute) acres. Nothing has been done to assist the fishermen of Ardlough, Killybeg, Strangford, and Portaferry to procure good fishing boats and gear, and the result of that is that nearly all the profits of

35647. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Has there been much correspondence with Mr. Green since this letter of 1904 was written?—I suppose I had five or six letters on the subject.

35648. You know he is a very busy man, and has a good deal to attend to, and don't you think it would be well to continue the correspondence until this work comes to maturity?—It is well.

35649. Is it in your parish?—It is.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—I am sure Mr. Green won't be at all surprised if you keep at him until the project is realised.

35651. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—Is there any other point you would like to bring before the Commission?—With regard to the herring fishing in the summer time, for want of some speedy transit they have to sell their fish cheap to the hawkers, and if there was some means of transit they would get a better price.

35652. What time of the year do they begin looking for herrings?—About now.

35653. Can you give any information as to the quantity of herrings last year?—I could have given that if I had thought you would have required it.

35654. Can you send it to us?—Yes, I will try.*

35655. Mr. O'KEEFE.—With regard to the before tackle and boats, you are aware the Congested Districts Board can take no action?—I know that.

35656. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Have you asked the Department of Agriculture, now in charge of the Fishery Department, for any assistance of that kind?—Some of the fishermen got boats.

35657. You have not a sufficient quantity of tackle yet?—No.

35658. Nor sufficient number of boats?—No; for the winter fishing the most important point is simply the making of this ship at Wreckport. It would take £200 to rectify it. There is great danger in getting in and out, and it would require a grant.

35659. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—I gather that good has been done in your district generally by the operations of the Agricultural Department; you think considerable benefit has been derived by the people from the operations of the Department?—Not considerable.

35660. Some?—A little.

35661. Is that mainly in improvement of live stock?—Yes; that is what the farmers say.

35662. Is there a general inclination on the part of the people of the district to take advantage of anything offered by the Department?—I think they are beginning to see it is their interest to do that.

35663. Mr. BAYNE.—Are these holdings you speak of worked with horses at all?—Many of them are not. Of course most of those people on those small holdings have, probably, one horse for carting stones. If they do not work at the stones they usually cart them from the mountains, but that has nothing to do with the working of their farms.

the Ardlough fishing fishery are secured by Scotch, Mr. Charles R. Greene.

Manx, and Arklow boats. I suggest that the coast line of Downpatrick Union be scheduled as a congested area, from Dunsurry to Cloughy, and that the fishermen of those districts be assisted in this way, as was done in Donegal.

35667. Mr. BAYNE.—Do these fishermen have holdings on the land as well, which they work?—Some of them do.

35668. What would be the valuation of those fishermen's holdings?—I can scarcely give an answer. The greater proportion do not have any holdings at all. There are some, but I can scarcely answer as to the valuation.

35669. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Why would you stop at Cloughy, and not go further, say, to Ballywalter?—I do not wish to go outside my own union.

35670. But would you think it should be extended further than Cloughy?—Oh, certainly; I would extend it along the whole way.

35671. To Donaghadee?—Yes, quite so far as Donaghadee.

35672. Is Cloughy in your union?—It is.

35673. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—You have some statements there?—Yes, an important statement in this matter has been prepared by Mr. Henry McGrath, Portaferry, County Council for Downpatrick county division, and by Mr. Edward McQuoid, n.c.,

* Note by Witness.—The amount of herrings landed in Killybeg in 1903 was 297 tons.—R. J. M.

May 16, 1907.

Mr. Charles
E. Green

Artiglas, and Chairman of Downpatrick Rural District Council. Both of these gentlemen are intimately acquainted with the conditions of the fishery in their divisions. Mr. McGrath especially has taken a very particular interest in the fishing department, in fact he is connected with the Agricultural and Technical Department of the county, and he has done very much to assist, as far as he could, to develop the fisheries, but unfortunately, it appears, with very little result. All the money that has been secured from the Department since 1890 is a sum of £335 for the erection of a small pier at Portaferry.

35554. Mr. O'KELLY.—Who is to blame for that?—I cannot answer, but the blame is really attached to the Department.

35555. Don't you think the Local Committee of Agriculture share some of it?—Possibly they might.

35556. Are you a member of the local Committee?—I am not a member. However, I may say that the points were pressed upon the Department by the local Committee with very little result. The only result I can find was the visit of that Mr. Green that was mentioned by Father Murphy. He came down along the coast and he did make an offer to the fishermen to give loans under the Fishermen's Loans Act but they found it impossible to accept those loans, because security was required, and that prevented the fishermen accepting. They could not get security as they are very poor people, and they could not get security for two or three hundred pounds. What the fishermen do want is that boats or nets should be given on the share system. That is the only way that the fisheries could be developed, or that the fishermen could be assisted. With regard to the trawlers, that is a very sore point with the fishermen along that coast. They complain very much of the depredations that have been done to them by the trawlers. The Department claim that they have been protecting the coast, but the fishermen say that the protection is absolutely ineffective. They would also ask that the limit should be extended for trawlers to five miles instead of three. However, I presume, if the coast was really protected well from the trawlers perhaps the three-mile limit would suffice.

35557. CHAIRMAN.—What the fishermen really claim is that the coast may be well protected within the three-mile limit, but they want it extended to five miles?—You misunderstood me. They do not say it is well protected within the three-mile limit. They say those trawlers come very rapidly under steam much closer than the limit. Although the Belgis, the Department have on, does really go about, the protection is ineffective.

35558. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Your point is that the share system enables the poor men to get boats, while they could not find security for a loan?—Precisely.

35559. Under the share system security is not required?—That is what I understand.

35560. Under that system the boat remains the property of the public body giving it out?—Yes.

35561. And also is it not the case that there is this advantage, that the instalments are payable as the fishery progresses, and the catch is made, and not at fixed intervals, season after season?—Precisely; that is it.

35562. That entitles the poor man?—That is the point the fishermen rise on their takings.

35563. Therefore, it is not a question of losing money?—There is no question of loss.

35564. Mr. BRYCE.—You are now question of loans remains, but what of the vessels lost?—I presume the Department, or the Board would use the ordinary protection of insurance.

Mr. BRYCE.—It is not so easy to insure fishing boats.

35565. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What Mr. Bryce puts has been a great difficulty in connection with those particular boats, but at the same time a scheme of insurance has been started. Did you consider what could be done in the way of agricultural improvement for the small holders?—Yes, I did. The suggestion that I offer for the improvement of small holders in these electoral divisions is this: One of the matters which requires to be remedied very much is for those small holders throughout these electoral districts, who are very much inconvenienced through the fact that the roofs of their houses are of straw.

The climate is inclement, and when high winds prevail, these roofs are stripped occasionally by storm. They wear out very often, and it is a drain upon the resources of the small farmers to keep these buildings in repair, and to keep proper roofs on them. What I advocate is, that advances should be made to these small occupiers for the purpose of enabling them to make a general improvement in their housing accommodations. They could borrow money from the Board of Works, with an increase of the rent for the next thirty years, practically, and it would be necessary that a considerable part of those loans should be a free gift, to enable them to surmount their difficulties, and they have a precedent for that, in the Labourers' Act; as I believe 37½ per cent. of that is a free gift. A much lesser sum would suffice for the purpose of enabling the improvement of the small farmers.

35566. Your reference to the Labourers' Act is quite interesting. You consider the small farmer on a holding under four or five pounds valuation has pretty much the same claim as the labourer for help?—Yes.

35567. To make the honestest token?—Yes; that is my point.

35568. Mr. BRYCE.—Are there many of such people in this Downpatrick Union—people under £5 valuation?—There are, not in the Downpatrick Union, as in the electoral districts I have named, on the Ballynahinch.

35569. On to Shore Creek?—It extends as far as Shore Creek.

35570. In the mountainous country, between Glenties and Ballynahinch?—And Crossgar.

35571. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—In further pursuance of the statement in reference to the labourers, I suppose, where there are so many small occupiers there is no need for labourers' cottages?—I do not say that. Downpatrick Rural District have already a large scheme for the improvement of the labourers' holdings ready for the contractor, involving 18 cottages. They have also under consideration a second scheme for the erection of 256 cottages for the labourers. If those go on the labourers will be supplied, and they will be, in fact, better housed than the small farmers. Certainly I would be very much in favour of everything that could be done for the labourer, but a little should be extended in the way of, and to the small farming class, who are, in my mind, the bone and sinew of the land.

35572. I fully accept that, but is it not the fact that the labourers' cottages are put on the High Road?—Not always.

35573. If there was a wide area, such as you described by Father Murphy when he was speaking of Upper Mourne, would it not be a fact that the small occupiers themselves, to a large extent, in such a district, take the place of labourers?—Yes, but not so much in the district I speak of, for this reason: the young men of the district emigrate and go east, and do not remain to be labourers, while the men who remain at home are occupied on their own holdings, or in some little business. They do not take the position of labourers.

35574. It comes to this, that in a district where the holdings are small there is not the same opening for labourers' cottages as in a district where the holdings are large?—Quite so.

35575. In a district where the holdings are small the family of the occupier do most of the labour?—Yes.

35576. That being so, I think it is your opinion that in a district where the holdings are small it would be a good thing to give to the small occupier some inducement to improve his dwelling up to the standard a labourer is able to attain, when a cottage is built for him in the better districts?—Precisely.

35577. With the object of working that out under stage I have just to ask you, under the scheme of the County Committee of Agriculture, are the any prices given to small occupiers to improve his houses or homesteads?—I think there is to cottages, but I am not aware if there are any to small occupiers. I am not quite sure.

35578. Mr. O'KELLY.—What is the difference between a cottager and small occupier?—Well, a cottager is simply in possession of a cottage and a little plot or garden, and the small occupier will have five or six or seven acres of land.

35579. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would you not

side the Labourers Act of last year one of the most beneficial Acts we have had for a long time?—Yes.

35680. Would you like to see some corresponding advantages as far as could be consistently with public policy extended to this small farmer class?—Yes.

35681. Taking that another step, do you think could the advantages be attained through a prize scheme or, in the case of the poorest men, would it be necessary to go beyond a prize and give a subsidy in such case?—I think it would be necessary to give a subsidy.

35682. You do not think a prize scheme of itself would suffice?—It would not.

35683. Mr. O'KELLY.—You now intend to build 505 cottages?—Yes.

35684. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Do you consider it rather hard upon the small holders to have to pay taxes to put labourers into houses better than their own?—Yes; it is rather somewhat hard at least.

35685. Don't you think the policy of making them pay for labourers' cottages ought to have weight in doing something to enable very small holders, who are farmers, to improve their holdings?—Yes.

35686. You have prepared some figures?—Yes; they are as follows. This is a statement showing population of Electoral Divisions according to the Census returns of three past decades.

	1851.	1881.	1901.	Decrease, 1881-1901.
Castlewells, including Towns, Dunmore,	2,590	3,395	3,395	805
Dunmore,	2,348	1,705	1,705	643
Basswood,	1,095	1,802	1,802	707
Seaford,	5,045	1,102	1,102	3943

This is a statement of the valuation of tenements in the Electoral Division of Castlewells, Dunmore, Roscommon, and Seaford.

	Under £5.	At £5 to £10.	At £10 to £20.	At £20 to £50.	Over £50.
Castlewells, exclusive of Town of Castlewells, Dunmore,	254	154	85	39	15
Dunmore,	108	142	125	65	9
Roscommon,	100	101	180	65	10
Seaford,	185	121	314	40	7

With reference to the districts I have mentioned, there is a considerable amount of mineral resources un-

developed—that is to say, I believe, iron ore of very good quality indeed; and in the electoral division of Dundrum there is said to be a coal mine, a lead mine, and a silver mine. It was worked something like forty or fifty years ago in a slight way. The work was stopped, but for what reason I have been unable to ascertain, but there really is a coal deposit in Killybeggan. If it was surveyed and examined, and found to be worth working, it would offer the necessary employment to the young men of the district, develop all those minerals, and prevent them from going to America. In the division I represent, Roscommon, within the last ten years very nearly one hundred young men have gone to Idaho and Colorado. They are principally engaged in mining, and my idea is if those mines and mineral deposits were found at home, and if they were developed in some way by public aid, those young men would not have to leave the country, and would find the necessary employment at home.

35687. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Of course, the Commission would generally agree with your wish to keep the young men at home; but if there are those deposits of coal and iron ore here, how is it, that with the enterprise and capital available in Belfast, people have not come down to see what could be done with them?—I could scarcely answer that question.

35688. You only propose to give money for the sake of developing an industry that would certainly pay?—Yes. I would advocate money should be given for aid to start those industries, and give the necessary instructions how to set in those cases, and I believe without any very large amount of assistance there would be plenty of money found in the district to develop the industries if we only knew how. In connection with this union, the only industry I have heard of is a quarry situated outside Castlewells. That quarry, if it was properly developed, with a light railway, and also machinery and everything connected with the industry, could be made to provide employment for ten times as many people as at present. If you glance at the figures I have quoted from the Census returns you will find the population of this district has been going down very much in the last twenty years. The whole thing is to give a direction and show how to go on, and I believe there would not be very much money required.

35689. Mr. O'KELLY.—Have those mines ever been worked?—Yes; iron ore was shipped, to a large extent, from Dundrum to the north of England.

35690. How many years ago?—Not more than ten years ago.

35691. Why was the mine closed down?—I cannot say.

35692. Was it paying?—I cannot offer any opinion.

Rev. J. J. DOUGHERTY examined.

35693. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—You are Parish Priest?—Yes, of Ardglass, and I wish to volunteer a little evidence to support Mr. Greene as to the fishery, but not with regard to the agricultural part. Ardglass was once a famous fishing station. The land at Ardglass is not congested. The fishing part is much congested, and should be subdivided as such. Formerly about 400 fishing boats were consistently employed there from January to October, and the value of the fish amounted to about £50,000. The taking of the fish at the earlier period of the year did not permit of the fish fully maturing, and the reputation of Ardglass herring was affected thereby. Secondly, the fishermen say we should have a close season for Ardglass from 1st of January to 25th May. I will give you the reason. The herring fishing for which our coast is famous has, during recent years, been prejudicially affected, and is being threatened with total destruction, owing to the invasion of Scotch and English fleets, which visit the coast about the latter part of the month of April, before the herrings are matured. Those boats fish along the coast up to the time that the close season expires, when they return to their respective shores after having impoverished and destroyed our herring area and depreciated the quality of Ardglass herrings in such a way that our men are unable to compete in the local markets with Englishmen and Scotchmen. Considerable injury is done by trawlers

along the Ardglass coast. Notwithstanding the efforts of the Government to prevent the trawlers coming within the limit they manage to come near the Ardglass coast, and when the revenue boat comes in the way they cover their number, and consequently up to the present no prosecutions have been instituted. The fishermen say, as a proof of the necessity of the limit for trawlers being increased from three to at least six miles, that there are two floods or tides at Dundrum Bay. Those tides meet about two miles from Ardglass and create in the sands collected food adapted for herring spawn. The trawlers fish here in the winter months and break through the spawn, and in early springtime early fishing disperses the young herring. From time to time Government inquiries have been held in Ardglass with a view to ameliorating the condition of the fishermen, but unfortunately no good ever came from those inquiries. I know Ardglass for the last twenty-five years, and four inquiries have been held in that time, but nothing ever came out of them. Now, in the past it has been admitted that Ardglass had some grievances, because about thirty-five years ago the Government spent about £25,000 in erecting a quay, but their work was incomplete from the fact that the rock in front of the harbour, known as the Chern Rock, was not removed. Although the fishermen, from their hard experience, know a

May 16, 1897.
Mr. Charles
H. Greene.

Rev. J. J.
Douglass.

May 18, 1902.
 Mr. J. J.
 Donnelly.

great deal about the weather, sometimes in the summer season they are afraid to go out in the evenings because of the storm that may arise about six or seven o'clock in the evening. They are afraid to return because they would run the risk of being smashed on this particular rock in front of the harbour. I may add that Ardglass is the fishing market for Cloghly Harbour, Portarloe, and, to a great extent, Killybeg, of which Father Murphy has spoken. It would benefit the Ardglass fishermen very much in addition to the other things I have brought before you to have a curing station established there. I have seen the herrings thrown out—there was no market for them—and hundreds of men, thousands of herrings, thrown out in the sea because there was no market for them. There is a place called Ballyhoran, below Ardglass, and known as Gun's Island. This line or ditch, as the fishermen call it, runs from Ardglass in a straight line from Dundrum a mile below Ballyhoran. The twines practically come in to within a mile of this village, Ballyhoran, because they know the fish congregate there. About twenty years ago the population of Ballyhoran was about seven hundred, and in consequence of the destruction brought about by those twines, at the present time the population is not more than fifty. With regard to nets; in the event of the Commission not arriving at a conclusion about the advisability of a close season, it would benefit the Ardglass fishermen very much if they could get, not only boats, but two different supplies of nets, nets with a large mesh, and nets with a small mesh, for the beginning of the season. The "close season" is absolutely necessary to preserve the local industry on the County Down coast.

35696. Of course a close season is a matter for scientific inquiry and really beyond our province. It has been represented at the several inquiries I preside?—Very often.

35697. Those were inquiries held by the Fishery Commissioners?—Yes.

35698. I suppose, instituted under application from the district on some definite point?—Yes.

35699. Was it generally with regard to the close season?—Yes; and a number of points I have mentioned, nets and boats.

35700. The whole thing?—I merely volunteer evidence. I mention the facts and the grievances I have heard from the men again and again. The late Mr. Johnston, who represented South Belfast, put frequent questions, Mr. Wood, formerly member for East Down, and many of the Irish party, also did the same, but no good ever came from it. With all due respect to your Commission, that was the reason why the poor fishermen thought their evidence was useless, and they made no effort to supply expert evidence to-day.

They have a very able representative in yourself.

35701. Mr. O'Kearney—I suppose they are despairing of anything being done?—Yes. Mr. Green visited Ardglass at the instigation of Mr. MacVaugh this time four years. I went to Dublin myself on two or three occasions and interviewed Sir Horace Finnistall and the members of his Department, but I came home as I went. It is very hard to see these poor men leaving the country. I would like to supplement what Mr. Green has said about scheduling the district. He mentioned Cloghly as the terminus of his boundary. Portarloe is somewhat below that, and I am sure the fishermen would say this district should extend from Dundrum Bay to Portarloe. There are some three hundred boats fishing out at Portarloe, and some three hundred boats come to Ardglass markets with their herring.

35702. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Can you tell me why it is that the Department does nothing for you?—I would say it was absolute neglect from the different Governments, because my predecessor, Dr. Marner, had inquiries instituted, but nothing ever came out of them. Ardglass has been a voice crying in the wilderness for the last thirty-one years.

35703. Mr. O'Kearney.—You are a very patient people?—What could we do?

35704. They say down in the West of Ireland if they do not kick up a row they will get nothing, and they generally have the row?—The fishermen say that the herrings mature earlier in the south than in the north, and that is the reason why they would say the close season should be confined up to 15th May. Besides, Ardglass herrings have a reputation for quality,

and the herrings taken early are below the standard in quality. Ardglass and Portarloe are two fishing stations, and some time ago they had a dispute about the exact time that the close season should come, and they came to the conclusion that the 15th May would meet the demands of all.

35705. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Of course, I suppose you gathered in your inquiries, and from what you heard, that the question of the extension of the three-mile limit and a close season are questions that could really be determined locally at all, but involve international questions—you are aware of that?—I am.

35706. Putting aside those two points of the question of the close season and the question of the extension of the maritime limit, what has Ardglass asked for definitely and distinctly to have done in order to improve the fishing?—They asked for the removal of the Churn Rock; otherwise the expenditure of the £25,000 is useless. They ask for boats and proper nets. In the event of the close season not becoming a bye-law, they ask, as they are all poor men, for boats and nets, with large and small meshes, and that they would be partly on a par with the English and Scotch fleets.

35707. With regard to the curing station, you tell me you, yourself, have seen large quantities of herrings thrown away because there was no means of disposing of them?—Yes; no means of disposing of them.

35708. In the ordinary season, are there buyers going to Ardglass?—Yes.

35709. How was it there was no buyers at that time?—Three years ago, after the Scotch and English boats came in April and destroyed the shoals of fish, the Ardglass men had a very bad season, because they say they could not catch the fish that congregate in this particular ditch. The fish they did get were bad, and the buyers did not come. The herring are not matured, and the English buyers want the real Ardglass herring. Formerly there were three steam-boats, when the value of the fish would amount to £50,000. Twenty-five years ago there were five steam-boats plying between England and Ardglass, and herring was sold from a pound to two pounds per season, while now the average season is sold at about seven shillings and expense the summer over. If we had a curing station it would be one remedy. The market would be better.

35710. Has the question of a curing station been definitely and distinctly raised by you or the people from that district with the Department?—Again and again.

35711. Am I right in understanding from you that the Scotch and English boats come here and make a good business of it?—Yes.

35712. How is it that the Irish fishermen cannot be the same?—Their boats are not sufficiently equipped, and secondly, those men come regardless of all weather, because they have good boats. Our men hold that those boats, coming so early in the season, destroy the Ardglass fishing. Ardglass is not only famous as a fishing station, but it is the market for Portarloe, Cloghly, and many of the Killybeg boats.

35713. These Manx and English and Scotch boats follow the fish around, and do you suppose if the Ardglass men had similar boats that they would go away and follow the fish around the coast and leave Ardglass the same as those men?—The Ardglass fishermen can catch the fish as well as Scotch or English boats, but they maintain it is injurious to start herring fishing in April in consequence of the peculiarity of the shoals along that line from Dundrum Bay to Belfast Lough.

35714. Your point is that the Scotch and English boats come here and catch the fish, and that the Ardglass men cannot compete because they have not got the same class of boat?—That is number one reason.

35715. Supposing they got the same class of boat, would they follow the fish around the coast and give their time to it altogether, or is it that they want to fish near Ardglass only?—They are quite willing to fish anywhere. We have a number of men fishing at Killybeg at present, but the real point of contention between Irish fishermen and the Scotch and English fishermen is that fishing early in the season along the coast by the Scotch and English boats is absolutely injurious to the fish. It

destroys the fish, and in order to allow the fish to mature the season should not commence until 28th May or 1st June. If the fishing begin in April, it only lasts for two months here, the fish despise. Before the early fishing started our season lasted for four months.

35714. As they cannot stop the other people fishing, would it not be as well for them to say we will have our hand out of it too. Is there not something in the fact that the fishing people who follow the fish around the coast are a harder people, by reason of that training, that they go out in the early season when the weather is bad and are content to do it while the other people, not being accustomed to it, would rather see the fishing postponed?—It is not so in this case. They are most anxious to earn money. There are few men connected with farm work. The Ardglass men depend on earning their livelihood out of the sea. During the winter months they sail. That portion of the country I come from would not come under the Cragoed District Board because the farmers are in very good circumstances. The farming industry is successful as the land in this part is good. The fishing industry should be assisted, as it is the sole means of living for the fishers.

35715. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—When your men are down as far as Kinsale where do they deliver the catch? On the English or Irish coast?—On the Irish coast.

35716. Do they sell them fresh?—Yes.

35717. Not cured?—Yes. They are sold in Ardgliss by auction.

35718. But the fish they catch in Kinsale are sold in the South of Ireland?—Yes.

35719. Is there a railway?—Oh, yes, and a railway not only into Ardgliss but down through the principal street of the town to the quay.

35720. That would help to develop Ardgliss into a great fishing station?—I believe it was the great fishing station in Ireland.

35721. About that Churn Rock, I suppose on all occasions when you went to Dublin to interview some of the people at the Agricultural Department that point was put forward?—I have put that point before them too.

35722. Is it the conviction of those interested locally that the rock should be removed?—Yes.

35723. Yes, I think, stated unless it were removed the expenditure on the quay was almost lost?—Yes, almost lost. It is a very small rock. As far as I am capable of judging it would not take very much money to remove it.

35724. Do you know did the experts ever say that the removal of the rock might cause considerable damage at the pier?—Oh, no, the rock is situated on the other side, so that the quay is all right and there is always deep water. The men are afraid going round the corner of the quay head of being dashed against the rock. I have seen four men drowned as they were bringing a boat round the quay head. They were drowned in my own view.

35725. That is a striking proof that it is an obstruction?—Although I am not an expert in fishing, I am giving an honest statement of the case, and furthermore, as I have said, the fishermen were so hopeless of any redress I could not induce one of them to come to-day, so I came myself.

35726. I am anxious to find out myself whether it has been alleged that the removal of the rock would let in a big wave or anything of the sort and make the pier less secure?—Oh, no; it is completely secured.

35727. It has not been alleged that the rock acts as a natural breakwater to protect the pier?—Oh, no. There is the quay, that costs \$25,000, and this rock is right in front of it. It would not cost very much to remove it.

35728. Your statement makes it clear that the removal of it would greatly improve the approach?—Certainly it would.

35729. And that the protection of the place would not be lessened by the removal of the rock?—It is completely detached from the quay.

35730. Sir James Connors.—It is completely detached from the pier?—Yes.

35731. Being so detached does it break the sea so as to give smoother water alongside the pier?—No, it does not. All the parties with whom I had any conversation in connection with this rock, have said again

and again that the money that was expended on the erection of the quay was lost in consequence of the Government or whoever had authority, not finishing the work by removing the rock. It requires very dangerous tackling to bring a boat safely to harbour in stormy weather.

35732. Where do the fishermen keep the boats?—Between the quay and the rock. They have two or three safe harbours when they get in.

35733. Is the rock exposed?—Almost. At high water you will see a little bit of it. It is barely the size of this courthouse. As far as I know it would not take much to remove it.

35734. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Sufficiently to make the approach much better than it is?—Yes.

35735. Is it the feeling of the fishermen that it would be a secure harbour for their boats if the rock were removed?—It would be entirely in favour of the harbour to remove this rock. About twenty-four years ago there were three or four different memorials sent away, but nothing was ever heard, except the ordinary official note stating—"We have received your communication" of such a date. That is all over we got. That has been going on for the last twenty-five years, within my own knowledge, and before that time, I understand.

35736. How many boats are there in Ardgliss?—I have seen, at one time, three hundred, but last year we had only eighty.

35737. Perhaps you are including the English and Scotch boats?—I am talking of Irish boats alone. About the period of the year—August—when the fishing is in full swing.

35738. How many boats are from this district?—I cannot answer that question very well, because Portuguese boats bring fish to our market also. Roughly speaking there are one hundred Northern boats—County Down boats—fishing in the Ardgliss Harbour.

35739. A good many of those would be deck boats, not small open boats?—Manned by seven men.

35740. Mr. BRYCE.—Deck boats?—Half-deck.

35741. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—They have berths?—Each man, I presume, has a berth for himself.

35742. So that they can go to Kinsale and live in their boats?—Yes.

35743. Mr. BRYCE.—Twenty-five-ton boats?—I cannot answer that.

35744. Are they like the Arklow boats?—Yes.

35745. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Are the fishermen anxious to get larger boats?—Yes; better equipped. I was told some of the Scotch boats would cost about £1,400, and our boats would not cost more than two hundred pounds or three hundred pounds. They have machinery in the Scotch and English boats for hauling up the nets. When a storm is coming on they can haul in their nets. In the case of the Northern fishermen, they have the old means of hauling in the nets.

35746. Are there any steam trawlers in the district owned by Irish fishermen?—No; they are all owned by foreigners.

35747. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You say one hundred boats turn into Ardgliss?—Yes.

35748. With good adequate nets and the removal of this rock, do you think this hundred would increase, and would you think more people would engage in the fishing?—Decidedly.

35749. How many boats belong to the people of Ardgliss?—Twelve.

35750. What is the population of Ardgliss?—About seven hundred, and in the summer time about 1,500. Many women are employed at the quay packing herring. You must take into account as soon as the herring fishing ceases the population goes down, as the people have gone to sea.

35751. You say formerly the value of the fishing was £20,000—what is it now?—Five thousand pounds.

35752. Under improved conditions you would not be sanguine enough to hope the £20,000 would be reached again?—In days gone by Ardgliss was the great fishing station in Ireland, and there are so many now in Douglas and other places—

35753. People elsewhere have had the condition of things improved, and consequently they have advanced at the expense of Ardgliss?—Yes.

35754. I think you told me Mr. Wood knows Ardgliss?—Yes.

35755. And Mr. MacVaugh put questions in the House of Commons?—Yes, and so did Mr. Johnston.

May 18, 1907.

Rev. J. J.

Dunne.

May 18, 1897
 Res. J. J.
 Donnelly.

I may add it is not a question of religion. I am not discussing religion at all. There is no opposition among the men.

35754. Nor did I ever suggest it is. The Ardglass men are Catholic. Portaferry men are Protestant. They are unanimous.

35755. Mr. Wood, the former member, knows the place; Mr. MacVaugh also knows it well, and I dare say the present member knows it well—Captain Craig?—Yes.

35756. Mr. Russell is a Northern member and knows it well also?—He never comes to our part.

35757. I think he was in East Down on one occasion. What I would suggest is this, if I may respectfully make a suggestion, pending the report of the Commission, that Captain Craig, Mr. Wood, Mr. MacVaugh, yourself, and any others would seek an interview, pointing out that your past operations were useless, that something needs to be done quickly, and ask Mr. Russell to come down and see for himself, and ask Mr. Russell to sit down with Ardglass and Kilgobbin there fifteen hundred people, and they are sick, sore, and tired of those public investigations. If you had a sitting at Ardglass Courthouse you could not get twenty people to go to the Courthouse to give any evidence before any inquiry, no matter how distinguished the Commission might be.

35758. Surely you take a different view, and you are not going, because of one set-back, to give up the task as hopeless. I think if the suggestion I ventured to throw out were acted on it might be with some results—I will see to it. I certainly hope that some by-law could be passed in reference to this close season. On account of the peculiarity I have explained of the two tides and two floods meeting at Dundrum Bay the fish congregate on that particular place, and it is then, in the interests of Ardglass, and would be very useful to have the limit for the trawlers extended from three miles to six or seven miles, for the reason that this ditch of which the men speak is within that limit of three miles.

35759. Mr. Barron.—Is there any close season at present?—No.

35760. None whatever?—No.

35761. There is a close time at Stormont. Is there marked here?—Yes; marked at the beginning, but in May they fish for herring.

35762. They fish whatever they can get? Have these fishermen any agricultural holdings at all?—They have not. These men all live absolutely on sea-fishing. I wish to correct the statement that some of them are farmers. They are brought up to the sea and cannot work on farms.

35763. In connection with that, would you give us a sketch of those men's lives during the year. What does one of these men do at the beginning of January?—They start preparing boats in March, and our season closes at the beginning of October. Then they become seafarers. They sail foreign, as many of them as can get berths on vessels.

35764. They become sailors for a few months after October?—Yes.

35765. Do they go on a long voyage?—Yes. That is the state of affairs at present. Formerly, fifteen years ago, before the trawlers did so much injury, they were able to start with long lines after the herring season was over. They made a good livelihood during the winter time, catching white fish. They caught whiting and sole. They received a good price in Belfast for Ardglass sole.

35766. Instead of catching white fish they go to sea now?—They attribute the decrease of the white fishing to trawlers coming within this particular line of demarcation.

35767. They go to sea for four months?—Yes, and then they start to prepare the nets and boats.

35768. When do they go to the fishing?—March or April. They are fishing at the present time—in the middle of May.

35769. They begin fishing at the exact same moment as the Scotch and English fishermen?—At present they are unable to do so as the nets are not small

enough in mesh. The Ardglass men complain that the fish is of inferior quality owing to the early fishing.

35770. If they had the small nets they would go out fishing?—Yes; but they say Ardglass herring have a reputation, and by catching the fish early that is destroyed. A prudent farmer would not sell his hanks—nor would he take his potatoes out of the ground—before they were fully matured.

35771. That is a counsel of perfection. So long as other people do it they may as well fish themselves. They used to be able to fish from 1st June to November, but now, since the Scotch and English have come, our season terminates about the first week in August, because the fish have been scattered all over the place, and left the place where they spawn.

35772. In fact it is for the want of fish?—I venture to say on account of the trawlers and the boats coming in April the shoals of fish are dispersed over the ocean. Formerly, towards the end of the season, the fish were caught ten miles out, and at the present time, towards the end of the season, they have to go out thirty miles.

35773. I understand the recommendation of the fishermen is that a close time should be established to the end of June or 25th May?—There is a difference of opinion between the men in Ardglass and Portaferry. Ardglass men say the 1st of June, and Portaferry say the 10th May. They split the difference and came to the conclusion that the 25th May would be the proper time.

35774. They would like a close time established to the end of May? and they consider that would extend the fishing to the end of the year?—Yes.

35775. Even though a great number of English and Scotch fishing boats come?—They are experts, and they would be able to compete with any of them.

35776. They would need nothing but close-meshed nets?—If the close season is established we do not require nets with small meshes. If it is not established we require two classes of nets for our boats. I am giving you the opinion of all the fishermen I have met—nearly all of them—Portaferry, Ardglass, Killybegs, all are of opinion it is injurious to the County Down coast to have the herring fishing started earlier than the 25th of May.

35777. They would like the limit for trawlers extended to six miles?—Yes.

35778. So that they would have white fishing in the winter?—Yes.

35779. They would have begun fishing for herring from the middle of May to the end of November, and then have such fishing as they could get until the middle of May?—That was the state of affairs up to within the last fifteen years.

35780. Suppose the Ardglass fishermen could get the limit of trawling extended, which is a thing that requires international agreement, he would still have to go to sea from the end of October, provided he had his close time to 25th May, and then from the end of November he could go and be a sailor as at present if he could not do the white fishing?—Yes. Another peculiarity about the coast of Ballyhenry or Gull Island, in that the water is very deep there round the particular portion, and the white fish there are in deep numbers. The trawlers come into the shore, within half a mile of the coast, and the coastguard station has been removed there. It was manned by footmen. They have no fear now of any person being there on this particular coast. It is three miles from Ardglass.

35781. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Have both coastguard stations been removed?—Both have been removed. There were two coastguard stations, Ballyhenry and Killybegs. I have seen those trawlers a mile from Gull Island again and again, and the poor men looking at those people taking away their bread and butter. I was up at the office of the Department once, and I was told there was a woman, rather, and all I had to do was to send a wire. They did not mean, I suppose, to throw cold water on my complaint, but I considered the reply positively insulting, that I went to run down to the post-office and send down to Gull to Mr. Hill on the cutter there.

Mr. ANDREW J. MORROW examined.

May 18, 1907.

Mr. Andrew J. Morrow.

35704. Sir JOHN COLSON.—You represent the Agricultural Committee for the county?—Yes; my address is Clonsilla Park, Limerick.

35705. You have a live stock scheme?—Yes. I will take agriculture first. We have an instructor at present going round the county giving itinerant instruction and conducting experiments all over the county. We have about a hundred experimental demonstration plots. He is only appointed since March. We had no lecturer last year owing to the Department taking away our instructor to Athlone. We have now got this man. He is giving instruction all over the county, and he is at the disposal of anyone who wants him. We had agricultural classes. We had two centres, Downpatrick and Banbridge, where the people have been taught agriculture.

35706. By lectures?—Agricultural classes, of three days each, for six months, three days per week. They are over now, and he is conducting experiments. We have a poultry scheme, and we have an itinerant horticultural instructor, and an instructor on bees, and we have a scheme for subsidies to show. We give three hundred pounds to them, and we have a scheme for small farmers and for cottages erected under the Labourers' Acts.

35707. Tell us a little more with regard to small holdings?—First of all we have a scheme for a cottage on holdings not exceeding one acre—labourers' cottages belonging to the farmer; a class for farmers not exceeding £25 valuation, and another class exceeding £25, but not exceeding £50. Then, we have another class, a cheapness class, as the price winners of last year are included. We have a class for labourers' cottages alone. We give prizes to the best kept labourer's cottage. They are worth twelve shillings and sixpence each. We give them fruit trees and potatoes.

35708. You do not give cash?—Fruit trees and other things.

35709. Mr. O'KELLY.—Are these labourers' cottage prizes peculiar to the county?—They are in the Downpatrick and other unions of the county.

35710. Sir JOHN COLSON.—What are the precise nature of the operations with regard to the small holdings of £25?—They come in under £25 valuation.

35711. The £25 and £50 come in all in one class?—Yes. We have them up to £15, and we got very few entries. We extended the sum, and for that of £25 we have a very good show.

35712. Mr. BRYCE.—Have you any experimental plots in your schemes?—No farms, just plots through the county. Some of the farmers give plots for demonstrations.

35713. For this year?—Yes. It is simply seed and material tests.

35714. Do you find the people are keen about the results of these?—Yes.

35715. They go and see them?—Yes. We issued a report. Last year we did not issue a report owing to the agricultural instructor being away. It was very much omitted after. I have a copy of the Report of 1906.

35716. Sir JOHN COLSON.—The classes are well attended?—The lectures are fairly attended. The average attending the agricultural lectures would be forty or fifty.

35717. We had it told to us at Kerry that at first the farmers themselves came, and then they did not come in time, and that it was the young men came, and that apparently they were not very keen to learn, but regarded it as a sort of entertainment—do you agree with that?—Oh, no. I think if you get thirty farmers round the school it would be a very good attendance, and there were very few less than that, and if not farmers, then they were farmers' sons.

35718. Anxious to learn?—As far as I know, they are.

35719. Our business is with what really concerns competition and the small men. And is there anything in your system in this county that pays special regard to such districts as Upper and Lower Mourne, or do you treat them as one?—They are all treated as one. Killybeg Rural District has not faced as well as the other parts of the county. In regard to live stock there it is difficult to get anyone to keep a bull. We have only two these, and it is entitled to four. We have sixty bulls in the county.

35800. It is not that there is any disinclination on the part of the County Council and the Committee, but the practical difficulty in those poor districts of arranging to keep a bull?—Exactly. There is one man who went to Dublin to buy a bull but the price was too high, and it is expected he will get one in Belfast.

35801. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You know these poor districts pretty well?—Yes.

35802. Would it be your opinion that poor districts such as Sir John has mentioned to you would require more public help than rich districts, proportionally?—I believe they would require a bull sent to them and given to them, but we have not the money to do so.

35803. I can quite understand that, but without at all interfering with the general arrangement for the better off districts, would you think the poor districts should receive more help than the better off districts?—Yes.

35804. Hence if a district is poor, and with a large number of holdings under £4, it might be a good thing if the Department had, for such a district, a supplementary scheme, independent of the general scheme?—Yes.

35805. And worked through the County Committee?—Yes, and it could be well worked through the County Committee.

35806. You would be able in that way to give more assistance to those districts?—Yes, to the small holdings.

35807. As a matter of fact at present, in the scheduled areas, the Department has schemes by which the work of the County Committee is aided and supplemented, and they are supposed to be worked somewhat in accordance with the views of the County Committee?—I would be very glad to receive some of that from the Department, and we could spend it very well round Killybeg and the other districts.

35808. Would it be your view that in addition to the usual operations of the County Committee schemes it would be natural that in agriculture and industries some special attention should be paid to those poorer districts, and perhaps a large amount of the public funds proportionately made available without taking from the rest of the county?—Yes, I would.

35809. In pursuance of what Sir John asked you at the start about the prizes which you gave to encourage various classes of occupiers, do you think would there be room for a class under £25 valuation?—There would be room but we had no entries when we had it down for a low class. The farmers did not enter. Then we increased the valuation to £25, and brought in another class from £25 to £50. Then we had fair entries, almost 150.

35810. You would rather say that fair competition would require that the man under £10 or £5 should not be competing with the man whose rating is £25?—It would be much better if they would enter and compete, but they won't enter.

35811. But did any?—Very few under £10, except in the little cottages, and they would come in under labourers' cottages.

35812. Sir JOHN COLSON.—When you speak about cottage classes and labourers' classes—that would be a labourer with perhaps an acre holding—would it be open for a small holder of perhaps thirty shillings valuation to enter into competition, or would he be excluded?—It is not exceeding one statute acre. It is not under the Labourers' Act, but a cottage belonging to the farmer, and that a labourer is living in, and that has a small garden. There is a prize for him.

35813. There is a class, and there is competition in the labourer's section, which means a labourer with an acre?—Yes.

35814. There is a small class of men, with £4 valuation?—No; there is none between that and £25.

35815. Is there a fair amount of competition in the labourers' classes?—We have ten or twelve entries for three or four prizes. In one district in the north of the county for five prizes we have ten or twelve in it. In Killybeg we have had some competition.

35816. Mr. O'KELLY.—You say you got no entries under £25 valuation?—Very few.

35817. What year did you include competition of that kind?—Last year was the first. The year before that we got a few.

May 18, 1907.
Mr. Andrew
J. Morrow.

35813. How long was this scheme for people whose valuation is under £25 in operation?—This is the second.

35819. Last year you commenced?—Yes.

35820. You thought that justified you in dropping the scheme?—There was very few entries under the £15 valuation before that. We raised it to see could we get in more, and we did. We had a few entries the first year, next year, fair entries, and the third year, and last year, we had more.

35821. Don't you think you are improving from year to year?—I don't know about this year.

35822. I think it is hardly fair to put people under £15 in a competition that lies open to £25 and £50. The first year you had a small number and the second year you improved?—No; not under £15, but when we raised it to £25.

35823. You kept it at £25 since?—Yes. It might be changed another year.

35824. That is a very interesting report you referred to, but I do not see that it deals with the fishing?—We did not deal with the fishing, although at the last meeting, in April, there was a very strong resolution sent up by Mr. McGee to the Fishery Commissioners as to a slip, giving the boats on the shore system, and about the travelling of County Down by travellers, and the Department wrote down that they could not give anything of the £10,000 that is allotted for the fishing. They said County Down got its fair proportion of the provision against travelling by the Halls. They said the County Down fishermen were the best in Ireland, and that they got instructions from amongst them to instruct them in other places.

35825. Some witness has said £158 was voted by the Agricultural Committee?—That comes from the County Council. Our Committee does not touch that.

35826. Were your schemes for those whose valuation is under £50 very well advertised in the County Down?—Yes, in eleven newspapers.

35827. Where does the County Committee hold its meetings?—In Belfast.

35828. I notice you give grants for shows?—Yes.

35829. Is the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society for Down?—No, it is for the whole of Ulster.

35830. Aided by the local Committee?—Only Antrim and Down subscribe to it.

35831. What sum have you at your disposal for the whole county?—About £3,400. That includes £250 of a grant we got from the Henry Trust Fund, Downpatrick, for agricultural purposes—it does not touch the live stock scheme.

35832. I see a flax scheme?—We put that out.

35833. Why have you knocked off flax?—I do not think it was doing any good.

35834. You thought it was not necessary, or was it not taken advantage of?—We have a flax scheme, but when we had flax shows we were boycotted in regard to the buyers. We had only two buyers for the bulk of our flax.

35835. Would you tell us what your scheme was?—We had a scheme for the best scutched flax produced and brought to the show and market, and at the market there was nobody to buy it except two men. We ran that for two years, and they would not give the price for good, well-cleaned flax. They would not give the price the farmers wanted. We had another scheme for the best scutched mill, but we dropped the whole thing last year.

35836. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell?—Is flax cultivation declining?—I think it is increasing this year. It will increase without any of our prizes if they got a good price.

35837. Sir James Cosgrave?—It was to bring the quality of flax to perfection you encouraged it?—Yes, by prizes.

35838. How did the fact of speakers not buying affect your prizes?—We gave prizes, but no one would touch the class. We just gave the prizes for the flax letting those dispose of it as they liked.

35839. Then, they could not sell the flax?—It was worth two or three shillings a stone more than they got. The buyers would not go to that price, and just two out of the whole county bought the flax.

35840. Mr. BRYCE?—What do you think was the reason of that?—They would not give the price because it was well cleaned.

35841. Did they not distinguish between well

cleaned and badly cleaned?—They did not give any much more. It was very trifling.

35842. You infer the farmers' labour in cleaning the flax was not properly remunerated?—Not to the extent it should be.

35843. Perhaps those flax buyers could clean it better themselves?—No; I do not think that.

35844. Sir James Cosgrave?—Is there a market?—There is one here, one at Rathfriland, and one at Newry.

35845. Do you mean to say price is not regulated by quality and cleanliness?—Sometimes it is, and sometimes it is not. If you go in with it very good you may get sixpence more, while it might be worth ten shillings more.

35846. Mr. BRYCE?—Is there a ring?—I do not think there is, but they won't give the price. They could afford well to give a good price this year.

35847. Mr. O'KELLY?—You give manual instruction?—Yes, we do; and we have much-appreciated domestic economy classes.

35848. Sir James Cosgrave?—What is the manual instruction?—It is carpentry work. There is a class in the evenings, and for schoolboys under fourteen. They work two hours handling tools, and how to draw, and then, in the evening we have tools, and they make harrows and other things, under the supervision of a practical man.

35849. Where are those places of instruction?—On in the country and the village.

35850. Take Upper and Lower Mourne?—We have not been round there yet. We have two sets of tools, and at present the instructor gives a class for six weeks—three nights at one class and three nights at another.

35851. The districts of Upper and Lower Mourne have no class yet?—Not as yet, but they will be going round.

35852. Is it because you have not been able to spread them sufficiently over the county yet?—We have been only two years at it, and there are seven counties in the County Down.

35853. Do you foresee any greater difficulty or much more expense in establishing manual instruction classes in a district like Upper and Lower Mourne, and other districts?—No, I do not. The only difficulty we have is to get places to hold the classes in. The poorer the district the greater the difficulty you would have. We have a very good class in a poor district in a National school, near Mayobridge. We have very successful classes in Mayobridge and Hilltown on domestic economy. In the poorer districts we have better classes than in the richer districts, and often we could have two classes.

35854. Mr. O'KELLY?—How long is this scheme of manual instruction in operation?—This is the third year.

35855. How many agricultural instructors?—Four on the agricultural side, and three technical.

35856. And for manual instruction?—Only one.

35857. How many centres have you?—Two.

35858. How many centres do you think you ought to have if you covered the county?—Downpatrick Rural District itself would take two or three. It is a fourth of the county.

35859. You have confidence in the whole of the instruction?—I have. I think it is one of the best things ever came into the country.

35860. Have you seen them working?—Yes, at Hillsborough.

35861. In your own county?—Yes.

35862. When did you make a start in Hillsborough?—It was last year sometime.

35863. What time last year?—It was the summer time last year.

35864. How long did it last?—Six weeks. And another class was held at Drogheda at the same time.

35865. Last summer he started in Hillsborough to give instruction for a period of three months?—He was in Drogheda and Hillsborough at the same time. Then, he went from that to Ballinashinch and Carrick.

35866. When do you expect him back to Hillsborough?—Not for a while.

35867. Will he come back in two years?—I suppose he will.

35868. Why?—It is according to the classes he got.

35869. If the scheme takes in the various places?—He would not be in Hillsborough for the next three or four years if we went round all.

35870. What is the meaning you attach to a successful class?—The attendance is one thing.

35871. The attendance might be good and the classes not successful?—The attendance at the classes is very successful.

35872. Do you think three months' manual instruction are sufficient to enable a man to—?—To make a plain gate?

35873. And anything else?—They have made wheelbarrows. At Drogheda four or five made wheelbarrows within the time.

35874. Do you think that teaching a young man to make wheelbarrows—?—Anything belonging to the farm.

35875. That that is an adequate return for the money spent on manual instruction?—I don't know. It shows them how to handle tools.

35876. Do any of the young men in the towns get that instruction?—They were principally farmers' sons in Hillsborough and Drogheda, farmers' and labourers' sons. I was at both classes for an evening.

35877. When the instructor returns to Hillsborough, in course of time do you think he will meet any of his former pupils?—He could have had two classes at the time he had one if he had the tools and benches. Instead of sixteen he could have had thirty-two. There were five mechanics to give instruction to.

35878. Your experience is different from other parts, where they find the young men in the towns?—It is quite the opposite here. Then, we have domestic economy. It is started at Killybeg at the present time. It is a very successful class. We have another class,

started only last year for embroidery. In some parts of the county we don't want that, though in poor parts they do. The instructions are going to three or four miles from here on 1st June, in a district in which they do drawn-thread work.

35879. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—Have there been any domestic economy classes held in Upper or Lower Mourne?—One in Rostrevor, a very successful one, and one in Hilltown, most successful.

35880. With regard to embroidery and spinning, has that been brought into the poor districts?—No; they do not require it there as it is already there.

35881. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—One instructor in domestic economy is all you have?—Yes; and about seven centres in the county.

35882. Well-attended classes?—Yes; we have to turn some away. The technical classes are doing very well, but our scheme is a small one—£200 from the Department, and £100 from the county. Ours is a small scheme, the others are urban.

35883. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—With your experience do you consider it would be beneficial in order to increase the industrial habits in Ireland if preliminary training of manual instruction were given to the older boys and girls in National schools?—I believe it would be very good.

35884. So that they would be able to take fuller advantage out of the manual instruction classes afterwards?—It would be more useful.

35885. Do you think that would be generally popular with the people?—I don't know that.

MR. JOHN McALEER continued.

35886. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—You are a civil engineer?—Yes, and my address is Castlewellan, County Down. I have lived and practised the greater part of my lifetime in South and East Down.

35887. You understand the chief object of this Commission is in reference to the poor districts, the poverty-stricken districts, whether scheduled or not?—I do. I gave evidence at arbitrations and before Land Courts in East and South Down and other Courts for the farmers, so that I have the means of being fairly acquainted with the circumstances of the people. My knowledge would confirm the evidence I have heard given by Father Murphy here to-day, and of Father Lowry in Newry about Lower Mourne, and for Killybeg District Council. I would agree that there is not a fifth of the holdings here supporting. The holders must live otherwise. In my opinion the land by nature is very poor, and such as it is has been made by the tenants. In my opinion no improvement of the holdings would enable the holders to live on them without some other means of existence. Nature, although it has given them bad land, has given them a great deal of natural resources in the way of mines and minerals, and if they were developed would give occupation to all, better perhaps than the land. The people are a very enterprising people. If they were shown the way, in my opinion, they would speculate and take shares in any companies that would be formed to develop the industries that could be opened up in the place. You have got evidence about quarries here, convenient to the place, and there are other quarries up near Hillsborough. It is a different class of granite from this. It is a cheaper and easier wrought granite than this, but it is not quite as good, but it is impossible to work it, owing to the difficulty of placing it on the market.

35888. You mean the difficulty of transport?—Yes. I have been told by parties that are working at the stones in this district that if proper machinery was erected in the place, and the parties shown, by experts who know how to do the business, how to polish; and if there would be machinery for steam cranes and automatic hoistways and machinery for polishing, and also an easy means of placing heavy stones on railways, that the parties in the district, who have an interest in the stone would pay half of the cost. I am told it would take fourteen or fifteen hundred pounds to erect the requisite machinery, and the parties locally interested in the stone would be willing to pay half, and pay the interest on the balance of the money, and if necessary at the end of some time buy it out from the Government, or the Department, or whomever would erect the machinery.

35889. Do you mean that in quarries which are now being worked the application of machinery, which involves cost, would make them more profitable?—It would.

35890. Would it not also reduce the demand for labour?—It would not.

35891. The substitution of new machinery?—It would not.

35892. Is not the general tendency of the introduction of machinery in quarries to reduce labour?—Not in this case. In this case the machinery required is machinery for work that cannot be done with the men that are now engaged. Small farmers can't bring out these stones on the rough quarrying work; and if there was machinery to finish the stones there would be a greater demand.

35893. If the outlay of a capital of £1,500, applied to the quarries for polishing and finishing processes, were going to largely increase the profits, how is it that in an enterprising part of Ireland like this, and plenty of business men in Belfast, they do not find the money to make the quarries more profitable?—There are no people engaged in this quarrying who have sufficient funds to do all this; and the men that have the money have no knowledge of quarrying.

35894. Do you mean to say the quarries are being carried on by men who have no knowledge of quarrying?—They have no practical knowledge of quarries. Apart from the quarries there are two mountains of iron ore. One of them was worked up to twenty or thirty years ago, and the other never developed.

35895. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—How far are you from the sea here?—Four miles, and Ballynagran quarries, six miles.

35896. What is the port for shipping stone?—Dundrum. Newcastle would be more convenient provided the railway continued to the quay, but if it was delivered by rail in Newcastle it would have to be carried a mile to the sea. A railway coming down from Newry through Hillsborough mountain would tap these quarries and deliver at the sea.

35897. What would be the course of the railway?—From a point convenient to Maghera, between Hillsborough and Rathfriland, then across the Bann River, and out on the square, and on the south side of Loghlanadree down to Barren Bridge.

35898. I believe the advantage of that line of railway was put before the Commission at Newry?—If it was that line of railway would do. There is a hill, or rather a mountain of sand at Hillsborough, I suppose the best sand in the Three Kingdoms. If there was any means of conveying it to Belfast at a marketable

May 18, 1907.

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Mr. Andrew
J. Meehan.

Mr. John
McAleer.

May 18, 1907,

Mr. John
McAlonan.

price it would be invaluable. It is carted fifteen or twenty miles at the present time.

35903. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—For building purposes?—The sand they have in Belfast is a particularly bad sludge from Lough Neagh. If a light railway were made there it would be very close to the sand hill at Hilltown. The mountain mines at Dochonet were worked for a large number of years by an English Company. It was brought on a traction engine to Dundrum, a distance of ten or twelve miles. The traction engine made three runs in the week, under favourable circumstances. At other times they would be stuck in a pipe or gully on the roadside.

35904. Have you any knowledge of why the work ceased?—Owing to the cost of transit no profit could possibly be made on it.

35905. You think the company did not pay by reason of the difficulties and cost of transit?—Yes.

35906. They could not compete in outside markets?—They could not. The iron is particularly good. The new railway opened within the last year comes within a few miles. That is the railway from Banbridge to Castlewellan.

35907. Mr. BAYNE.—There is a railway at Castlewellan?—It was practically opened last year.

35908. The English Company, with the right of running, have virtually abandoned it perhaps for fifteen or sixteen years. And now that the conditions are different it might be restarted?—Perhaps they would if the landlord offered rights over it. I may say in developing any of these industries the landlord stands largely in the way. I can give you instances of it at those places. A townland, a few miles outside Castlewellan, was sold by Mr. Garfield, and the tenants, who were quarrymen, believed they had the right to develop a quarry there as best they could, and a few working stone cutters opened the quarry on a farm that was bought out, and when they had the quarry opened, and doing fairly well, Lord Annesley, who happened to own the townland, sent out his bailiff and demanded rent.

35909. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—You are aware that on an estate where the tenants buy their holdings the mines and minerals become vested in the Estates Commissioners, and the landlord has no control?—The estate was sold, and Lord Annesley was the owner of it.

35910. Are you speaking now of an estate that was sold by Lord Annesley to the tenants?—Oh, no; it was sold by Mr. Garfield, under Lord Ashbourne's Act.

35911. Under the Act of 1903 the circumstances are changed?—Yes. In some cases I see that the tenants buy out these rights although I would not give the tenants the right to stop an industry any more than the landlord.

35912. Under the Act of 1903 mines and minerals became vested in the Estates Commissioners and can be used in the interests of the public for public purposes?—Quite right.

35913. Mr. O'KEEFE.—The iron ore mine was stopped because they wanted transit facilities?—I would say largely.

35914. Not entirely?—I saw it being conveyed, and I cannot see how it possibly could pay. If it was copper or silver it could not pay under such circumstances.

35915. The want of transit facilities was the cause?—It must have been, largely.

35916. What were the other causes?—The other cause I would think is that the English company did not want to work it.

35917. Suppose they did want to work it, and had transit facilities, do you think it would be likely to become a paying concern?—I think it would pay better to bring the coal on the ground and manufacture there than take it to England.

Mr. BAYNE.—That is certainly not the case. It always pays to bring the ore to the coal.

35918. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You have transit facilities?—It is within a reasonable distance.

35919. When were the works stopped?—About twelve years ago.

35920. Who is the lord of the soil?—The Marquis of Downshire or Baron Trevor.

35921. Or both?—Or both, perhaps.

35922. Suppose you had transit facilities necessary do you think the iron mine would become a paying concern?—I really think it should. The ore is splendid.

35923. Would the lord of the soil put any obstacle in the way of working it?—I cannot say.

35924. Have any representations been made to the Company that hitherto worked it?—I cannot say.

35925. Has anything been done locally to urge the company to re-commence operations?—I do not think so.

35926. Now, with regard to the quarries, why is it they are not working?—There are two principal reasons for the quarries not working. The first is that it costs as much, even with the railway now within three miles of the mountains to put stone at the train as it does to train it from that to Belfast.

35927. That is to say you have to haul the stone from the mountain?—From the mountain three miles down to the train.

35928. If you had a modest line of railway from that to the quarries would that difficulty be overcome?—It would. The next point is that at the quarry I have been speaking about it took a dozen men working ten days to get a three or four-ton stone on to a wagon and getting it off the wagon on to a railway truck at Ballinagade station, where they would leave the stone. If there was proper machinery for that it could be done in a few hours.

35929. Are there any quarries at work in the district?—Yes.

35930. Have they got transit facilities to the quarry?—They have not.

35931. How are they paying?—They are working away at them.

35932. What special disabilities do they labour under compared with quarries in other countries?—I am told quarries in Scotland have a railway into the quarry, and up-to-date machinery for polishing.

35933. You told me there are quarries working here to which there is no railway made?—There is no railway to any of them.

35934. Some are working?—They are working as best they can, but they are not developed anything like they should be.

35935. When you speak about further development what exactly do you mean?—I mean it is only an old contract those parties can take, because they cannot get the price. If they had further development they could compete.

35936. Further development would take the form of railway construction?—Yes.

35937. To the quarry?—Yes.

35938. Given that you would be able to compete on fair terms with competitors elsewhere?—Yes; and the output would be largely increased, and the labour largely increased.

35939. I suppose it is well known in this district that they may be made a great source of revenue to the people of the town generally if properly worked and transit facilities were adequate to the needs of the quarries?—They have general knowledge of that, but, of course, people in Castlewellan and about it who can live elsewhere do not bother their head about it.

35940. Don't you think if they could add to their income they would supply the necessary respects in the shape of money to have the quarries developed?—If the quarries were developed by, say, the Government, or a company they had confidence in, there are people in Castlewellan that have money to spare and would have money to invest in it.

35941. Everyone in Castlewellan is not as well off as that?—You could not expect a shopkeeper to take an interest in the quarry outside the town.

35942. If you cannot expect the people immediately connected to take an interest in it how can you reasonably ask them to do so?—I reasonably ask the Government that has charge of the country to look after the people and develop industries. I say they should have an interest in it. If a Government takes the charge of the country and the welfare of the country it is their interest to develop it for the welfare of the people.

35943. You would not be disposed to deny that the people themselves?—I should give their assistance. If the Government but do their part and show they have an interest in the place, and take more or less responsibility of the place, there is public spirit and money enough in the district to largely sustain them.

35944. But it seems there is not public spirit enough to bring this potential source of wealth under

the notice of the Department?—There is not sufficient spirit amongst men to speculate money in a trade they know nothing about.

35943. Have any steps been taken to represent to the Department of Agriculture in Ireland that those

quarries are capable of great development?—Not that I am aware of.

Mr. O'KELLY.—I must say that I agree with your conclusions that when a Government takes charge of a country it ought to assist in developing it.

May 18, 1907

Mr. John

M'Alonan.

Rev. D. MULLAGHAN examined

Rev. D.

Mullaghan.

35944. Sir JOHN COLSON.—What district do you represent?—I am from the parish of Kilroe (County Down), and I represent the parish of Kilroe, which extends from the borders of Newcastle to the borders of Hilltown, from the top of the mountain, bordering Upper and Lower Moors to the parishes of Castlewellan and Leitrim. There has been very little representation made from this district of the country to the Commission up to the present. The inhabitants of the district are purely employed in agricultural pursuits, and in that district of country there are 785 rated valuations, land bearing separate rates. I do not mean to say there are 785 farmers, because one farmer may hold two or three separate valuations but if you take the average of the valuations you will get 505 out of the 785, or 63 per cent. that do not reach over £8. The people of this district have had rather a severe struggle in the past to make ends meet, and in case of bad crops or in case of members of the family who are in America or Great Britain earning and sending home money, failing to remit money to old people at home—when either of these sources of support fail the people were reduced almost to misery. I may say that if the people in the district had to depend absolutely upon the products of their farms, well eighty per cent. of them could not do it. There are not in the district twenty per cent. of the farmers who can subsist on the products of the land.

35945. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—On what do they subsist?—Partly on the earnings of their children who are here or in Great Britain, or in America, partly—though to no very considerable extent—upon the few shillings made by the female members who are engaged in embroidery or lace-making. Then, up to the present, some people who could afford to buy sheep had them grazed for a seasonal run on the Mourne Mountains. That source of income is threatened, because the landless, without any reference to the tenants or making any compensation to them for their threatened loss, made over large catchment areas to the Belfast and Portadown and Banbridge Water Companies. The sheep have not yet been turned off the mountains, but the tenants are induced to believe that at any moment they may be turned off without any compensation for their loss.

35946. Sir JOHN COLSON.—The mountain portions you speak of were not part of their holdings, but they took them as grazing from the owners?—They were not part of their holdings in so far as they were not included in their leases, but they had a right to send sheep for something like four or five pence per head per annum.

35947. Was that part of their lease?—I do not think it was, but that had been the custom for a very considerable number of years. Owing to the questions that are cropping up at the present time about the purity of different water supplies the tenants are induced to believe that at no very distant date they are to be entirely prohibited from sending their sheep to those catchment areas.

35948. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Sheep would be their main source of income?—Not for all the farmers, but for those who could, by straggling, purchase a few sheep and send them to those mountains, where the grazing of them cost practically nothing. They could derive considerable benefit from this sheep farming.

35949. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Can you tell me approximately the area of the whole mountain used for sheep grazing and what is the proportion of land now taken up by the water company?—I could not. The mountain extends from practically Newry to Mourne. The greater portion of the entire Mourne Mountains were sheep runs.

35950. Do I understand you to say that for the purpose of supplying Belfast with water a large portion of the Mourne Mountains has been appropriated?—They have what they call catchment areas—that is the points from which the water flows to the reservoirs—and they claim to exercise an influence over those. The same applies to the new reservoir that is being

constructed at Foffany on behalf of the Portadown Water Company.

35951. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Is the catchment area surrounded by wire fences?—Not yet, but I think that portions of the Belfast catchment area has been walled.

35952. That, in your opinion, will adversely affect the economic condition of a very large number of people?—It will affect a considerable number of people. It will affect the class of people who have not sufficient area to maintain sheep stock on their own holdings at home, and who have been in the habit, up to the present, of sending a stock of sheep to the mountains.

35953. Will you suggest to the Commission what your remedy is?—I was very glad to hear Mr. M'Alonan draw attention of the Commission to the beneficial effects that would follow from the light railway being made from Newry by Hilltown, Kilroe and Castlewellan. I think if that line came into existence it would have a very beneficial effect on the district. Another point that I should mention is, that there are considerable acres of land which lie for from two to four months of the year under water. That is the fact notably in the Shrivemore district, and land there could be reclaimed if the river were sunk. In this and several other places you must have what would be equivalent to many small holdings that would be very much benefited by sinking portions of the river. On this side of the Burnen there were two or three holdings where proprietors were prepared to contribute £50 to have the bed of a river sunk a depth so would take off the surface water of the lands in the winter season.

35954. What happened?—The lands are still in a bad state. I think part of the river was sunk slightly. I am not sure whether the £50 they were prepared to raise has been expended or not, but I think if the £50 has been expended it might as well be thrown away, because £50 would make no hand of what requires to be done. I would also suggest that the farmers of this district could be very profitably employed if they were put upon the proper lines of planting and raising trees on the rough portions of the district where timber could be grown. A great deal of timber has been cut down. I have heard many farmers express a desire that something should be done to replant corresponding areas and it was represented to me that I should speak of re-forestation as far as it could be conveniently introduced into the district.

35955. Sir JOHN COLSON.—But the lands you have in your mind and you wish the Commission to have in their minds at present is land not appropriated to grazing or any other purpose?—The lands are being grazed by sheep at present, but as far as I could gather the persons who are grazing these lands at present would be prepared to sacrifice the grazing profits for the present for the sake of having these areas planted with good timber.

35956. You, first of all, brought under our notice the hardship going to be indicated by the appropriation of certain lands, where people grazed their sheep, by the Belfast Water Board, and now you say that it would be a beneficial thing to take more land away for the purpose of planting?—Planted areas would be small relatively to catchment areas; also grazing would be injured by them only temporarily and then improved, owing to shelter, whereas by water catchment areas grazing is perpetually injured and no improvement caused by adjoining land; and if this land is thinly planted with good timber and sheep are kept off it for a few years it would become better land when sheltered.

35957. Do you understand that there is no also planting trees unless you are going to bring them to maturity and that that will take forty or fifty years?—I think that if the trees are properly planted and seen to, then if the trunks have obtained sufficient strength and the branches are sufficiently raised from

May 12, 1907.
Rev. D.
Mellaghan.

the ground you could allow sheep to be admitted to graze through the trees after a few years.

35668. The sheep would be temporarily withdrawn and then would be grazed under the trees?—Yes, and there would be better grazing under these circumstances. I don't mean close planting for the sake of timber. They want timber, of course, but they want to have it so that it will not entirely exclude the grazing rights on the land which it is proposed to plant.

35669. Do you mean that the tenants can combine planting with grazing?—Yes. It seems that that is the impression that they are under.

I am afraid that they would find out that there is a big mistake in that idea.

35670. Mr. O'Donnell.—You said that one farmer holds several farms?—Yes.

35671. What would be the size of these farms—take a home farm first?—I know cases of actual farms, which I got from the rate books. A man might be living in a place valued at from £4 to £10 or £11. Then he might have another place that he had bought or acquired in some way or other, at, perhaps, £2 or £3 or perhaps only 20 shillings valuation.

35672. You would not have a man with sixty or seventy acres on his home farm and five or six miles away possess 50 or 100 acres which he would let out to local people?—I don't think there is a man in all the district I have mentioned that has a farm that would reach to anything like 100 acres if all were combined. What you refer to may exist in other parts of the County Down that I don't know anything about, but it does not hold in the district I speak of. I should say also that there is scarcely any possibility of getting farmers to unite these valuations. Their point is, that owing to their want of money they will never have an opportunity of purchasing separate little holdings for their children. They want to give a little piece to almost every son

they have, so that it is possible that the district, in the near future, may become even more congested than it is at present.

35673. Because of the evils of sub-division?—Not exactly sub-division, but the time was when these holdings were all separate little holdings.

35674. But the effect is the same?—The effect is the same.

35675. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have the people of the locality approached any of the large companies to see what favour they would show to the construction of the proposed line?—As a matter of fact the railway that has now been brought from Ballymoney to Newcastle was at one time thought of being brought the way I suggest.

35676. Would you consider that there is still room for the railway that you suggest?—I believe it could be made as paying as the one that has been opened, because if the country between Newry and Newcastle was opened up the amount of freightage, not to mention passengers coming to Newcastle in the summer months, would go far to make the line a success.

35677. But since the construction of the new line no company has been approached about the one that you suggest?—No. The new line has only been opened for about a year and it is very likely that any company that could be approached at the present time would look upon the project more or less with disfavour, because the Great Northern Company has a railway going from Newry by Ballyvaughan and Ballyvaughan to Newcastle. Portadown is not a direct route from Newry to Newcastle. The Great Northern will not therefore. I am sure, make the new line to the same terminus as they have already, and I don't see that any other company except the Great Northern could be easily approached in the matter.

35678. Yes. That is the line you think would serve to develop the granite and iron mines?—Yes.

Mr. PATRICK MURRAY examined.

Mr. Patrick
Murray.

35679. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—You reside at Clannaghogue House, Castlereagh?—Yes; about two miles from here.

35680. Are you a farmer?—Yes. My valuation is £37 10s. My acreage is 30 statute. I am a farmer and I was seven years an agent, and I have been valuing land for twenty-five years for the Land Courts.

35681. Have you any other business besides that of farmer?—Land value.

35682. For tenants?—Yes.

35683. Mr. O'Donnell.—Have you ever been a valuer for landlords?—I was asked, but I did not do, because I could not. They would not let me value according to my belief.

35684. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—You were asked to value, but somebody else was to put the value on?—No, but they asked me to value through their glasses and I would not. I asked them to let me value according to what I believed to be a fair value, and they would not let me. I have been asked by the County Council for our district to represent a place that possibly has not been represented yet, that is the portion from Loughlincherry chain of mountains down almost to Ballynahinch. If there be any congested districts in the County Down this should be one of them.

35685. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What union is it in?—In several unions, Banbridge and Downpatrick chiefly. It comprises about twenty-five townlands.

35686. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—Would you give us the name of one or two of the electoral divisions in the districts which you consider should be scheduled?—Castlereagh is one of them, and Loughlincherry is another.

35687. In Castlereagh there is about one-fifth under £10. All the rest are over £10—I could give some figures in the townland of Clannaghogue, 1,242 acres, valuation, £714, of which Lord Annesley holds 203 acres. There are then 75 holdings in the balance. Under £2 valuation, 30 holdings; under £3, 32; under £10, 21; under £20, 8; under £30, 3, and over £30 there is one—myself.

35688. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—These are all the holdings in the townland?—Yes.

35689. Does it include Lord Annesley's demesne?—No. This townland formerly belonged to a man named Scott, and he sold it in a number of portions; Lord Annesley bought one portion—the wooded portion.

35690. Mr. BAXTER.—This is mountain land?—Yes; a great deal of it. There is a great portion of it that Lord Annesley holds in his own hands. Out of the 203 acres there are about 100 acres of good land that he holds in grass. The remainder is wooded. The next townland is Ballyvaughan, 1,747 acres, valuation, £513. It contains 36 holders, 23 under £2 valuation, 30 under £5, 30 under £10, and 12 under £20.

35691. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—How do these people under £2 manage to live?—In my young days they could live better than now. There was much linen weaving; turf was plentiful, and the young cut out turf in the bogs and sold it, and a great many of them had to hire out their children.

35692. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—Do they hire out their children now?—Yes; they have to do it more so now. The population has been reduced by almost half in these mountain districts since I was a boy.

35693. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What you have said of the people under £2 applies also, to a considerable extent, to those over £2 but under £5?—Oh questionably. There is very little difference.

35694. The instances that they used to have in their houses have all dropped?—Yes. Most of the small patches of land on the mountains have been reclaimed from bog. They were labouring by spade labour. The labour has now gone and they cannot be labouring now, and the result of that is a great deal of this mountain land has gone back into bog.

35695. There is not the necessary labour in the country?—There is not.

35696. What do the young men do? Do they hire out in other parts of Down or go away?—As soon as they get up to be twelve or thirteen years of age they hire out. This is a very important hiring town. Farmers from the better portions of Down come here, and the boys hire out to them until they earn what will bring them to America, or perhaps to England, and then they send home money to their father and mother to pay the rent.

35697. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—Your knowledge goes back a long time, and you account for the fact that

when you were young the people were able to live upon their holdings because they did weaving?—It was a great help.

35988. Do you consider the people worse off now than they were then?—I do not say that they live worse, but the farms don't support the same number of people. I remember when in every second house you went into you would get two or three looms where they could weave the whole flax season.

35989. In those days you say that the people were better off because of the money that they got for weaving at home?—Yes, and by using the spinning wheel.

35990. That has all disappeared?—Yes; there is nothing of that kind now.

35991. Is that the reason for the emigration now?—It is part of it.

35992. What other reasons are there?—Foreign competition, and many other things.

35993. Mr. BARRY.—The price of farm produce has fallen?—Yes.

35994. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Are you aware that official returns don't justify that, but show it is not so—that is, taking a period of thirty or fifty years?—I am talking of 1855, when wheat was 18s. a cwt., and flax was 12s. a stone.

35995. Are you aware that the official returns put before this Commission show that, with the exception of wheat, all farm produce has risen?—I cannot agree with that. In 1855 I sold flax at 12s. a stone, and I sold better flax this year at seven shillings a stone.

35996. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Sir John is comparing the prices now with the prices, say, when

Griffith's Valuation was struck. The prices you have in your mind are the prices of 1875 or thereabouts?—I believe that when Griffith's Valuation was struck, in 1863, prices were fairly good. I believe that the County Down was one of the most highly valued in Ireland. I assisted a while in Griffith's Valuation.

35997. You have told us about the conditions of those people on the small holdings. What do you propose as a remedy?—There are twenty-five townlands in this district that I represent. In seven of them there are granite quarries, if they could be developed, and in five of them there is an ample supply of iron ore. I saw that tested.

35998. Mr. O'KELLY.—Who did the testing?—I sent one sample to be tested from the townland I live in. I got a return. It would give 75 per cent. of iron.

35999. May we take it from you that what you look to would be the development of the mining industry in this district as a means of relief for the very small holders?—Quite so. Besides we have a great deal of water power in this district going to waste.

36000. There being no land available for the enlargement of small holdings you fall back on railway construction for the development of mines. Do you also include the development of fisheries?—No. We don't go in for fisheries.

36001. But I was speaking now for the whole county?—Yes. I go in for re-afforestation and also for arterial drainages. There are bogs on this range of mountains that could be made fairly good if there were some arterial drainages.

May 18, 1901.
Mr. Patrick
Moran.

The Commission adjourned.

SEVENTY-THIRD PUBLIC SITTING.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22ND, 1907.

AT 12.0 O'CLOCK NOON.

In the Schoolhouse, Rathlin Island, County Antrim.

Present:—The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOME, K.C.M.G. (in the Chair); Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell;
JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; CONOR O'KELLY, Esq., M.P.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Rev. E. V. McGowan examined.

May 22, 1907.

Rev. E. V.
McGowan.

36002. Sir JOHN COLOME (in the chair).—You are administrator in Rathlin Island?—Yes.

36003. Will you kindly bring under our notice the chief features in connection with Rathlin that you wish to present?—As parish priest of the island, and coming necessarily into daily intercourse with the people, I am fully conversant with the extent and magnitude of the hardships they have to undergo. The case of Rathlin with reference to the present inquiry could hardly be exaggerated, and when to-day's sitting is concluded, I question whether the evidence you have heard in any other part of the country would reveal a sadder state of things than exists among the poor people of Rathlin. The witnesses to be examined include two of my predecessors as parish priests of Rathlin, and what I consider of special importance, several of the islanders will tell you in their own words the particulars of their sad lot. Mr. John Bryce, of Ballycastle, has also valuable evidence to offer. The great difficulty under which the islanders exist is the want of better harbour accommodation, and they believe that if proper harbour accommodation were provided that it would be the key to the solution of many of the difficulties under which they labour. I understand that some measures have been already taken to have proper harbour accommodation provided at Rathlin, but for some reason or other effect has not been given to them yet. I think if the present Royal Commission would use their great influence in having these measures carried out as early as possible and as successfully as possible a great boon will be conferred on the island.

36004. Of course you understood that the object of this inquiry is only concerned with the state of congestion in the different parts of Ireland. We come here because it has been represented to us that there is congestion here. I only want to prevent too much hope being raised, as matters of that sort are beyond our province, though we can put them forward with our observations upon them?—I merely wish to suggest that perhaps the Commission would be kind enough to urge the taking over of Rathlin by the Congested Districts Board.

36005. That is your main desire?—Yes, to secure powers to the Congested Districts Board to take over Rathlin. If there were proper harbour accommodation at Rathlin many of the difficulties under which the islanders labour would be removed and the fishing industry would be very much improved. At present it is in a most unsatisfactory state, and I may say that it scarcely exists at all. Then there is the want of proper boats to carry on the fishing industry. Another grievance is that steam trawlers come close to the island. They come here during the night; and I understand that an inquiry is about to be held at Moville next month with reference to the counties Donegal and Antrim. I think it would be very much better if one sitting were held as near as possible to Rathlin in order to have this objection got over.

36006. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You think that the fishermen cannot travel a long distance to these inquiries?—They cannot. They are too poor to travel so far—unless written evidence were sent.

36007. That is never so satisfactory?—It is not.

36008. Sir JOHN COLOME.—How long would it take for a man wishing to give evidence at Moville to get there?—It is a very long way. They never go so far from here with the boats, and it is impossible to give evidence at Moville with regard to the fishing grievance.

36009. I suppose your contention is that the inhabitants of Rathlin Island have a better field of observation than those on the mainland to see what is going on?—Yes. I have seen trawlers there myself, pointed out by some of the islanders coming here along the shore. Another great advantage of proper harbour accommodation would be that cattle would be taken safely over to the mainland. At present the only means of transferring cattle to markets and fairs is to put them into small boats. Horses must be thrown on the strand and put into a boat. When reaching Ballycastle they must be thrown into the sea and allowed to swim ashore. That is very bad on the people here, because the horses very often are injured from being tied down so long in the back for a period of two or three hours, and the price is cut down frequently on account of these injuries. I myself have seen horses, cattle and other live stock injured greatly when taken out of the boats as a result of the conditions of transit. Last week I saw a sow with one of its legs broken when it was taken out of the boat, and of course its price was cut down by five or six shillings.

36010. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—A great deal of abuse is necessarily involved in that proposition. The help industry cannot be carried out properly unless there is adequate harbour accommodation. At the present time a man bringing out the help in these small boats frequently suffers from the way in which the buyer cuts down the price. If there were proper harbour accommodation large vessels might come in and take away the whole of the help made on the island in one cargo and bring it to market.

36011. Sir JOHN COLOME.—Do you regard the help industry here as very important?—It has been in the past, and I believe that it could be restored to a satisfactory state although prices have fallen considerably.

36012. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is the help sold into a solid or sold in the condition of ash?—In the condition of ash. It is burnt to sand. There is no fuel at all in Rathlin. The people must bring the coal or turf from the mainland. When the people are last possessed for fuel they must resort to dried cow manure, which in Irish is called *beanghrain*. Frequently I have seen the people using dried sods taken from the surface of the soil.

36013. That does not improve the surface of the soil?—No. It injures the soil very much. If the harbour were provided cattle could be brought in larger vessels and landed. I would like to draw attention also to the high price of goods on the island, due to the fact that there is so much trouble in bringing provisions to the island. Everything is sold at a higher price than on the mainland owing to the difficulty of bringing these things across. A half a

charged at 5d. that should be charged at 5d. or 6d. on the mainland, and other things are dear in proportion.

36014. Mr. BARNES.—There would be something for the freight?—Yes.

36015. You cannot get over that—the man who carries it will have to get something?—He is not paid very much.

36016. Your point is that the total cost would be less?—Yes; if there was a vessel to come into a harbour on the island—all these provisions would be cheaper.

36017. Mr. O'KELLY.—Do the shopkeepers trading with the island not have boats of their own?—Some of them do—not all.

36018. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—How does the post come?—The post comes twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays. There is a small boat that comes with the mails. The next question is the unsatisfactory state of the fishing, which could be very much improved. I am told by the people that there is an abundance of fish around the coast. They frequently allow tons of fish to go into the sea again because they have no means of curing fish on the island.

36019. Do you mean that fish in quantities are landed on the island, and for want of a market are thrown away?—Yes. They did not draw their nets. These have frequently been allowed to be emptied again, as they could not make a proper use of the fish at all.

36020. Is that when the weather was so bad that they could not commensurate with the other side?—My point is if there was proper harbour accommodation to bring the fish away they could do something if they landed the fish on the island to cure them.

36021. Mr. BARNES.—If there was sufficient fish landed would not the curers come here and establish curing depots?—I think they would not. The difficulty of landing is too great, and the passage across in small boats is very dangerous.

36022. If curers would not come what would be the good of curing the fish?—If there was a proper harbour provided, they would come there. The harbour question is the key to all the difficulties in these islands.

36023. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What are the fish they catch?—Ling and haddock in the winter.

36024. Sir JOHN COLSON.—What about herring and mackerel?—They have them in very great quantity.

36025. If mackerel and herring are caught in the neighbourhood of this island, why cannot they take them to Ballycastle instead of bringing them here?—The difficulty is the want of proper boats to bring them across. The people have very small boats and cannot bring big catches.

36026. Owing to the smallness of the boats the fishing can only be carried on in very fine weather?—Yes. The weather here is frequently very bad. The coast is very rocky and dangerous.

36027. In fine weather when they catch them they could take them to Ballycastle?—They consider that it would not be very well worth their while. It is a long distance away and is troublesome crossing the Sound here.

36028. Mr. O'KELLY.—Is not it a fact that boats which in comparatively fine weather are able to leave Rathlin are not able to reach the shore at Ballycastle because of the inadequacy of the harbour accommodation there?—Yes. The necessity of harbour accommodation there is quite as pressing there as it is here.

36029. Mr. BARNES.—It is really part of the same problem?—Yes.

36030. Mr. O'KELLY.—Would you go so far as to say that it is more pressing?—It is more pressing.

36031. Mr. BARNES.—I understand that a grant has been given to improve Port Ushak?—Yes. Mr. Bryon, the late Chief Secretary, got a grant from the Government for the work, but there has been some delay about the matter, and the work has not been begun yet.

36032. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Have you any information as to the cause of the delay—has it been want of money, or the necessity of making certain preparations?—I do not know the cause of the delay. All I know is that the work has not been begun yet.

36033. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What was the amount of the grant?—The Government granted £1,000.

36034. Sir JOHN COLSON.—There was a condition that the county should find some money which, I think, they agreed to find?—Yes.

36035. Therefore, the money difficulty is not the cause of the delay?—I think it is not the difficulty.

36036. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is there a feeling that the work should be done before the stormy season sets in, and that for that reason it would need to be taken in hand early in the spring?—Yes, because it would be very hard to carry out these works in the winter time. They must be done in the summer.

36037. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Do you happen to know what body was to execute the work—was it to be a contractor or the Board of Works or what?—I think that the County Council have a committee to look after the matter. I understand that the committee are coming over at the end of this month with some of the members of the County Council, and an engineer and an inspector to sit and hear evidence from some of the people here.

36038. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have they not selected the exact site yet?—They have at Ushak.

36039. Sir JOHN COLSON.—But they have not decided on the exact nature of the work?—No.

36040. Mr. O'KELLY.—Do I understand you to say that the County Council engineer has a voice in the selection of the site?—I don't know who the engineer is.

36041. Mr. BARNES.—It is not a question of selecting a site. It is a question of improving the existing port?—That is all.

36042. The removal of stones and so forth?—Yes.

36043. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The County Council are giving a contribution?—Yes, they are.

36044. Their engineer comes in in that way?—I am not sure whether he is a County Council engineer. I know that he is coming with the committee of the County Council.

36045. You don't know whether the Board of Works will have the carrying out of the project?—I don't know. The next matter that I wish to refer to is the character of the land. As you see, the land is most unprofitable. It consists for the most part of rocks, and the only thing it produces in any abundance is heather. The buildings average from five to ten acres. In the case of the small holdings they are miserably small, and the land is of the worst quality. The island is covered to a great extent with water, partly loughs and partly marshes. Much good could be done by drainage, as by that means much of the low lands would be rendered capable of affording pasture to the cattle.

36046. Mr. BARNES.—And I suppose of tillage also?—Yes.

36047. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would the execution of the drainage be difficult?—In some cases it would not, because there is a considerable fall to the sea where these marshes are.

36048. Would any cuttings be through rocks?—In some places, but in most places that are very badly in need of drainage the cuttings would not be very rock. The water could be brought to the edge of the cliffs and allowed full sweep to the sea. A matter of very pressing importance in the fencing of the rocky heads of the island. The island rises in most places sheer out of the sea, and I am told that the sweetest grass very often grows on the face of these rocky heads, and the cattle very frequently come to the edge of the cliffs and fall over. Some men have been known to lose their entire stock in one year. Of course that is a considerable matter for these poor people. I believe if some assistance were given to them to fence the rocky heads a large amount of good would be done to the people. That applies to all the rocks around the island.

36049. What kind of fences were the people thinking of—stone fences or wire ones?—In many cases the people have erected stone fences and in some cases wire fences, but there are not so durable, and very often are blown down by the storm.

36050. It would add considerably to the prosperity of the islanders if the stock were secured from accident?—It would.

36051. Have you heard that one of the works created under the supervision of the Congested Districts Board in Arranmore Island was the fencing of the cliffs?—I was not aware of that.

May 22, 1907.

Rev. E. V. McGee.

May 22, 1907.

R.-E. V.
M. Green.

35052. It bears out what you say about the advantage of having the cliffs fenced in?—The people here cannot afford to have cattle, sheep, and other live stock; for that reason, I believe, that the sheep are not so plentiful as they were. I never saw so few sheep on the island as at present.

35053. Mr. O'KEEFE.—I suppose you have no idea of what it would cost to put up such fences?—No idea.

35054. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The land has not been sold to the tenants on the island?—No, but I was going to remark that if the Congested Districts Board would assist the islanders to buy out their land in case it was being sold, they might get the land under more favourable conditions.

35055. Would not it pay capitalists to have their investments increased if these cliffs were fenced in?—I think it would.

35056. Mr. BARNES.—I understand that the tenants have entered the Land Court to get a reduction?—They have, for the first time.

35057. Sir JOHN COCKER.—They have never been in before?—They have never been in before. At one time the rental of the island amounted to £800 a year.

35058. About what time are you referring to?—I think it would be 1864.

35059. The Land Act was passed at that time?—Yes.

35060. Did the landlords and tenants enter into judicial agreements out of court?—He gave some kind of abatement to the tenants because they did not go into court. It did not amount to very much. A matter of importance would be the parceling out of the large grazing ranches among those who have small holdings. There is a map of Rathlin Island (indicates map), and the promontory at the top left-hand corner to the north is all grazing land; and there is a tract of country the length of the map, that is all grazing.

35061. Mr. BARNES.—Have the owners of the small holdings any right of grazing over that tract?—I think not. Some few people have the grazing for themselves. If that tract of grazing ranch were divided among the landholders it would be a very good thing.

35062. Sir JOHN COCKER.—Rathlin Island is an electoral division?—Yes.

35063. I see there are two holdings above £50. These are the biggest holdings on the island. Is that one of them (indicates on map)?—Yes. That is portion of one of them.

35064. Where is the other?—The other is at the north-east end of the island. There is another considerable tract in the middle of the top of the map there, which is all grazing land. I am told that there has not been a spade on that land for the past fifty years.

35065. Mr. BARNES.—Is there no pasture attached to the small holdings, which average five to ten acres?—Yes, but it is very poor. The people take the good land for cultivation. Perhaps in the middle of the cultivated land there lies a hill for grazing.

35066. Are these small holdings generally of the poorest tillage land?—Yes.

35067. Where is the good tillage land?—On the larger farms.

35068. Does this grazing portion include any tillage?—Yes, but it has not been tilled for many years past, though you can see the traces of tillage there still.

35069. Sir JOHN COCKER.—According to the return about one-half of the holdings on the island are under £15?—Yes.

35070. Four-fifths of the entire number of holdings on the island are under £15 valuation?—That is so.

35071. Mr. BARNES.—Does the valuation exceed the rental or the rental the valuation?—I think that the valuation exceeds the rental.

35072. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You say that the rental of the island would be £800 about twenty-five years ago?—Yes.

35073. What would be the rent now, approximately?—I could not say.

35074. Would it be half that?—A great deal less than half.

35075. That reduction was due to voluntary abatement given by the landlord?—I think so.

35076. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Are the tenants in court at present?—Yes. The court sat in the

months of April in Ballyvaughan. The lay Commissioner has not yet inspected the holdings, and no decision has been given yet.

35077. How do you suggest that the grass land should be used for enlarging the holdings?—It might be parcelled out among those who have some of the poorest holdings.

35078. Would those who adjoin the grass lands need in all or might these lands be made to serve people at a distance?—They might be made to serve people at a distance.

35079. Sir JOHN COCKER.—Assuming that the Congested Districts Board had power to deal with the land for the enlargement of holdings, would you say, from your knowledge, that it would be better to divide up the grazing land among the adjoining tenants, or to keep it all in commonage with the rights of all to have certain stock on the land and to work it for grazing in common?—I think it would be better to have a redistribution of the land.

35080. If the available land is here (indicates on map), and you divide that among the people immediately adjoining, what advantage would that be to the people in the other places?—The people adjoining these large tracts do not possess the land if you referring to.

35081. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would not quite a large number of small occupiers remain in the central parts of the island, whose condition would not be improved under your arrangements?—They would probably remain where they are.

35082. Sir JOHN COCKER.—They would get nothing. What I want to get your opinion on is whether, if some body were dealing with these grass lands, it would be better to strip them and give portions of them to adjoining holders, or to reserve it under some authority so that all the tenants could get a certain amount of grazing?—I think it would be better to reserve the land for some of the more deserving ones on the island.

35083. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—There is not a scab of it in it?—Yes.

35084. You consider that the small man in the neighbourhood would need it all for the adequate enlargement of his holdings?—Yes.

35085. Do you say that the fact that all could not benefit from it is no reason why some might not do so?—Yes.

35086. Are there many small occupiers in the neighbourhood of these grass lands?—No; I think that the neighboring occupiers are not so desiring a scab further off.

35087. I take it then that your reply to Sir John is that this land could not go round all the small occupiers of the island, but that it might go round comparatively few?—Yes; the more deserving.

35088. And be very useful as far as it went?—Yes.

35089. Is it all in a piece?—Yes.

35090. Who has it?—A tenant.

35091. He lives on the island?—Yes.

35092. Has he any other means of living?—He has a publichouse.

35093. What other means of living has he?—He has a publichouse.

35094. Is it the same occupier who holds all the different plots of grazing land?—No; there are several persons. The upper portion I refer to is in the hands of several occupiers, who have the right to graze it.

35095. Are these neighboring small occupiers?—No. They are a long distance off.

35096. Would you consider that they should be left the right to graze?—I think that the land should be divided among the most deserving persons. Those persons who have the land already are not so desiring.

35097. They don't need it so much?—Yes.

35098. They are big people?—Yes.

35099. Mr. BARNES.—In former times were these tracts divided among a large number of holders?—Yes; in former times there were people living on these townlands.

35100. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Are any of these holdings in ruins?—Some of them are.

35101. You think that you should not only have a redistribution of the land but of the people also?—I don't know about that, but a re-distribution of the land would be very desirable.

35102. But for the greatest good of the greatest number would not you advocate a redistribution of the people as well as of the land?—Yes; but it would be

very hard to accomplish that, as the people are very much attached to their homes.

35103. Sir JOHN CORNUM.—When you use the word "dowering" are we to construe it as referring to those whose holdings are the smallest and poorest?—Yes; not only those who have small holdings, but small holdings of inferior land. In some cases the lot of persons on these small holdings is a very hard one.

35104. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would those who occupy the grass lands have much objection to parting with them at a reasonable price?—I think that there would not be any great objection.

35105. Mr. O'KELLY.—But if they had an objection you would have no objection to the application of the principle of compulsion?—I don't know about that. That is a difficult question.

35106. Sir JOHN CORNUM.—Have these holders of the large farms gone into court?—The whole island has gone into court.

35107. Therefore, if you were to disturb holders of these grass lands by the application of compulsion you would be dealing with judicial tenants?—Yes.

35108. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—If the island were bought by the Congested Districts Board it would have compulsory powers as the law stands with reference to these tenants?—It would.

35109. Mr. O'KELLY.—Do you see anything wrong in applying the principle of compulsion to the owner in fee and hesitating to apply it to judicial tenants?—I don't recognise the difference exactly.

35110. Sir JOHN CORNUM.—Do these big tenants employ any labour?—They do. They employ men to labour their lands.

35111. Therefore, you would not only be interfering with judicial rights, but you would, to a certain extent, be taking away the demand for labour?—There is very little labour on the upper end. There is no labour at all on this grazing tract of land.

35112. Then, I am afraid I misunderstood you. I understood you to say that these large farms do employ local labour?—They do, on their tillage farms, but in the parts I refer to there is no tillage at all. I would like now to refer to the population of the island. In 1851 it was 1,610. Now it is only 368. There are twenty-two townlands altogether, and on these there are only seventy-four houses.

35113. You don't happen to be able to tell us what it was in 1851?—No. I think after the failure of the potato crop it was very much diminished.

35114. I see that the valuation of the island is £338. That valuation was made in the fifties and early sixties, and it would be interesting to see what the population was in 1851 to compare it with the valuation. How do you think the people were able to live in those times when the population was three times what it is now?—I believe that in former times the people provided themselves with every article of clothing, while at present they must buy all those things. Also, in the old days, they cultivated every available spot on the island, and to this day you will see traces of cultivation, even to the tops of the hills.

35115. From inquiries you have made, and your own knowledge, you say that the whole island was under cultivation?—Not the whole island, but as much as could be cultivated was cultivated in the old times.

35116. Is it the case then, that comparing these distant times with the present, the land has gone largely from tillage into grass?—That is the case, largely.

35117. Would you attribute that to the fact that tillage does not pay, or if not, to what fact would you attribute it?—In the first place the population has, to a considerable extent, gone away, as they could not cultivate so much now as they did formerly, when the island was densely populated, and every available patch of land was cultivated. In the old times they had many cottage industries, and were able to make their own clothes, and even the shoes that they wore on their feet. At the present time there is not a single industry on the island, except sheep-raising, which is very poor.

35118. Mr. BARNES.—Is there any migratory labour going away to Scotland or England?—Not very much. The people are very much attached to the island, and very rarely leave. At the present time I don't think that there are any persons leaving home. Some years

ago some of the boys went to Scotland, to the mines, but at the present time their inclination is to remain on the island.

35119. The limestone quarries that have been opened have given some work?—Yes.

35120. How many people do they employ?—Fifteen or twenty.

35121. They are only on a small scale?—Yes.

35122. Are they likely to become larger?—I don't think so. Some time ago they had more hands employed.

35123. Mr. O'KELLY.—Do the islanders pay an agricultural and technical education rate?—Yes.

35124. Has anything been done for any of their interests?—Nothing at all.

35125. How long have they been paying the rate?—Since the Committee was established, I think.

35126. Have any of the inspectors of the Department of Agriculture come here?—No.

35127. You are paying a rate out of which you get no advantage?—Yes.

35128. Mr. BARNES.—I understand you also pay a sanitary rate for the mainland?—Yes.

35129. You pay for roads on the mainland?—Yes. We also pay a rate for the police force, though the people here are most peaceable, and there are no police here.

35130. You pay a sanitary and a road rate for the mainland though you get no benefit from these things?—Yes. They pay the full rates, and there is very little given back. The roads here are very bad, and there is very little money—no more than from £45 to £50—expended on Rathlin in the year.

35131. Mr. O'KELLY.—Would not you think that a district like Rathlin, which is practically isolated from the mainland, considering its backwardness and so forth should have a first claim upon a committee such as the Committee of Agriculture and Technical Education?—Yes.

35132. But up to the present nothing has been done?—Nothing.

35133. The island might just as well not have been in existence so far as the committee was concerned?—Yes.

35134. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is there any representation from the island on the committee?—No.

35135. Even if there was a representative it would be exceedingly difficult for him to attend the meetings?—Yes. That is the real reason.

35136. Does not that point to the conclusion that in a place such as this island some little administration of its own in reference to technical and agricultural work should be promoted?—Yes.

35137. That should be done not from a centre on the mainland, but from some centre here, however subordinate?—That is quite so.

35138. No representative of the island could be got frequently to attend the meetings?—He could not. That is the real difficulty.

35139. Has that been brought under the notice of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Dublin?—Not that I am aware of.

35140. You think they ought to know these things?—I think that they should know these things.

35141. An Irish department one would think ought to know them?—Yes.

35142. Mr. O'KELLY.—Are you aware that in some parts of the country, particularly the part that I come from myself, the County Mayo, the local agricultural committee often appoint a sub-committee to deal with a certain part of the county?—I was not aware of that.

35143. Following up your answers to his lordship, would not you think if a sub-committee from the island were appointed, and if they got a certain grant yearly from the County Council, even a small grant, they would be able to show results for it?—I think they would. The people here are most industrious and very willing to do their own share of the work. I may add that I made some inquiries as to getting a proper instructors over here for the girls of the island. I spoke to an instructor from the County Kerry who is quite willing to come here and give instruction here for one month.

35144. Mr. BARNES.—Is an instructor in domestic economy?—No; in sewing, embroidery, lettering and figuring.

May 22, 1907

Rev. E. F.

McGowan.

May 22 1897.

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McGowan.

36145. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You are aware that the Congested Districts Board have along the western coast situated in an industry of the kind?—Yes.

36146. I think you will say that, generally speaking, the conditions in Rathlin island are somewhat analogous to the conditions of the islands with which the Congested Districts Board have interfered in a most beneficent way?—I think so.

36147. That being so, don't you think that it would be a wise thing to suggest that this island might be looked after by the Congested Districts Board with some advantage?—I think so.

36148. Sir James CECIL.—Would you complete what you were saying about the instruction in sewing?—The only difficulty at present is the want of premises in which to carry an instruction. We have no house on the island to receive an instructor and have the classes going on. A few of the people on the island still have the old spinning wheels, and this lady is of opinion that these could be brought into daily use, and also that an industry for knitting stockings could be established.

36149. The difficulty is the house?—Yes.

36150. Where are the funds to come from for an instructor even supposing you had a house?—She is willing to come free for one month.

36151. You could not look forward to doing that continuously?—No, but some girls having been trained for one month could train the other girls.

36152. You think that the plan could be started and continued if you had accommodation?—I think so; and a number of friends would assist us after a while. This school could not be used because we want to have the girls taught during the day, and the children are here during the day. I was asked about the expenditure on roads. The county expenditure on our roads is £47 3s. 10d. The rate which we pay on land is 3s. 3d. in the £, and on other hereditaments it is 3s. 8d.

36153. The £47 3s. 10d. is not merely for maintenance, but also for special works?—Yes.

36154. That is the average expenditure over a period of three years?—Yes.

36155. Mr. O'KEEFE.—How much does the island contribute?—£132 1s. 8d. I received particulars from the secretary of the County Council. The rateable annual valuation for the land is £791 and of other hereditaments £254 17s. The sum of these = £1,045 17s. The total general district rate assessed for the current year is £132 1s. 8d., of which £89 6s. 6d. is on land, and £43 1s. 2d. is on other hereditaments. Of the above assessment on land £37 18s. 4d. is in respect of the county charges, £11 10s. 9d. is in respect of the union, and £29 11s. 5d. is in respect of the district. The total thus assessed on land is £29 11s. 5d. Of the total on other hereditaments there is £14 13s. 7d. in respect of county charges, £7 16s. 7d. in respect of the union, and £29 11s. in respect of the district. These make a total of £43 1s. 2d.

36156. Mr. BRYAN.—These two together make a total of £132 18s. 1d.—Yes.

36157. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You pay £132 for the purpose of getting back £47?—Yes. That is as I understand it.

36158. Mr. BRYAN.—I suppose you get some benefit from the assessment for the union?—We have no poor here who are chargeable on the union funds.

36159. Sir James CECIL.—You have got two representatives on the Rural District Council?—Yes.

36160. I suppose that they cannot attend very often?—They don't belong to the island. They belong to the mainland.

36161. The island itself comprises the electoral division?—Yes.

36162. But you take two representatives from the mainland, I suppose, because they can attend and the islanders cannot?—That is the reason.

36163. I dare say also because the representatives are pretty well fitted for the work?—Yes, but very little has been done by any of these public bodies for Rathlin, either by the Poor Law Board, the County Council, or the District Council. It would be very advisable if lectures could be delivered on the rearing and feeding of live stock, poultry-keeping, the management of bees, and fruit culture, which I think might be pursued here to advantage. The climate here is fairly equable on account of the Gulf Stream, and fairly well suited for fruit culture.

36164. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You don't suffer much from late frosts?—No. The frost does not lie long here.

36165. Mr. BRYAN.—Where the shelter is you could grow trees?—Yes, between the rocks are little valleys where you could have orchards.

36166. And the bees would get honey from the heather?—Yes.

36167. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—By what date have you early potatoes on the island?—I could not say.

36168. Some time before the end of May?—I think so. A gentleman who wrote a history of the island some time ago said that Rathlin had very fine apple trees years ago, but at present there are no trees on the island except a few standard trees that you see about here.

36169. Was this history in book form or in some paper?—In book form.

36170. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Did not some newspaper article about Rathlin appear some ten days ago?—Yes, I have got a copy of that. Perhaps the Commission will be glad to hear that we have almost succeeded in getting a savings bank for the island. I do not wish to say that the people here are able to save money, but if the savings bank is established they could put up the money for the rent until they have to pay it away in July so that there would be no danger of its being spent. The post office has agreed to establish a branch bank on the island.

36171. Sir James CECIL.—That will be a distinct advantage?—I think so.

36172. Speaking generally, I understand you to represent strongly to the Commission that the first thing that is really wanted for the substantial benefit of the island is the provision of means of proper communication with the mainland, and that for this purpose there must be proper harbour accommodation here and proper harbour accommodation on the mainland?—Yes.

36173. And I gather that you think you have been practically absolutely left out in the cold, left entirely on your own resources without any help to encourage the development of small industries, or of any industry at all?—That is quite so.

36174. You claim on behalf of the people of the island that there are strong and exceptional reasons why this island should have special help given to it?—I think so.

36175. Mr. BRYAN.—I believe that there was one exception to the record of inaction, and that there was one bill sent by the Department?—Yes. There was a bill sent some years ago, and he remained here for a few years. That was taken away by the Department and sold, I believe, at a loss. I don't know why. A few days ago I had a letter from the Agricultural Committee of the County Council saying that they had obtained another for the island, and it is now at Ballycastle waiting to be brought across.

36176. What was the history of the former bill was it that the people wanted to send the bill away some months before the Department would take it, and no means were provided for taking it away, and the result was that the bill was damaged going across?—I believe that that is the case. That was before my time on the island.

36177. They took no notice of the letter for some months and finally it was taken away?—Yes, and sold at a loss in Dublin.

36178. Did not they want also to give you some prize ribbons?—I believe they promised those things. I don't know whether they were sent or not.

36179. Because it would hardly do to represent the Department's neglect as absolute?—I was not referring to the Department in my remarks. I had in my mind the other public bodies—the County Council, the Rural District Council, and the Poor Law Board.

36180. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—How long are you on the island?—I am here since the 1st of March. One of my brothers was stationed here for two years. I was frequently here on vacation, and knew something about the people.

36181. Sir James CECIL.—You had opportunities before you came here of understanding the requirements of the people?—Yes, I had.

Sir James CECIL.—We are extremely obliged to you for the interesting information which you have given us.

MR. JOHN BYRNE EXAMINED.

36153. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—You are Lloyd's agent in Ballycastle?—Yes; I am also a farmer; I have resided for more than thirty years in Ballycastle. I have been in Rathlin Island repeatedly and know all the people on it. Rathlin is about six miles long, and over three-quarters wide on an average. The population at the last census was 263. It consists of twenty-two townlands, and constitutes one electoral division in the Ballycastle Rural District. It contains 3,396 acres 3 roods and 36 perches, of which 10 acres are under water. The valuation is £1,085 17s. of which £791 are on land, and £294 17s. on other hereditaments. There are 667 acres, 1 rood and 34 perches, a little over one-sixth the whole island, in the landlord's hands, and let temporarily. In that 667 acres I include a farm on the west end of the island, which I understood was let temporarily, but the man who occupies it tells me he has gone into the Land Court. There are over 200 acres in that farm, and if that is held to be a tenancy the amount on the landlord's hands will be reduced accordingly.

36154. If that comes off there will be over 400 in the landlord's hands?—Yes. The land is let temporarily since 1882.

36155. On the eleven months' system?—Not exactly that, but the tenants are not judicial tenants.

36156. If they are not eleven months' holders how can that be?—Holders not existing before 1882 cannot be judicial except by special agreement.

36157. If the landlord wanted to disturb a failure tenant he has got to pay him seven years' compensation as settled by the court and for improvements; so you cannot say that it is in the landlord's hands?—I understood it was land that might be fairly considered to be in the landlord's hands, though, as I had not access to the documents, I could not claim to be accurate on that point.

36158. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Do you understand that the 600 acres might be recovered by the landlord without compensation?—No. The landlord pays the rates and taxes on it.

36159. Sir JOHN has put it to you quite accurately that if there are future tenants there should be compensation paid on the tenants going off?—But the landlord would not be likely to pay rates for future tenants.

36160. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—He would not. Therefore, it looks as if it was in the landlord's hands, although the same man continues always in occupation, and that it is under the eleven months' system?—The landlord does not pay the rates on the farm of 200 acres, as I understood it. The estate varies from sea level to 450 feet. It is distant at its nearest point from Ballycastle five miles. Fairhead, Glenties, and Glenties, four miles. The coastline is very bold, almost all around, the rocks at some places rising almost perpendicularly out of the sea. The climate is mild and equable owing to the Gulf Stream. Heavy frost is rarely experienced, and snow never lies long on it. It suffers, however, very much from storms, particularly at harvest time, when, if a storm centre (and it is pretty much in the line of them) happens to pass over it, the stacks are swept up in the whirlwind and carried out to sea.

36161. Do you find, as we find in the South of Ireland, that the month of August is generally a wet month, and that it is in harvest-time you get storms of rain?—Yes; very frequently. There have been very bad harvests here of late years.

36162. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I suppose that these storms would be very injurious to the grain crop?—Yes. It is particularly dangerous when the corn is in stack. The people are occupied in agriculture, fishing, and kelp-making. They are very hardy, industrious, and most peaceable. There are no police or constables on the island, nor are they required except in cases of shipwreck. The roads are good, but in some places the gradient is so steep that horses can only draw about one-third of what they can do on level ground.

36163. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Are the roads mainly contract roads on the island?—They are all contract roads.

36164. Were these roads with the very steep settings made by the county?—I could not go back to that.

36165. But they are all on the county, and presented for?—Yes. They are all presented for. There are but few trees, though at one time the island is said to have been heavily wooded. The trees, I suppose, were all cut down for firewood.

36166. Mr. BYRNE.—Is there any trace of tree stumps in the bog?—No; but I see that, according to the work of the Rev. George Hill, a historian of local repute, Rathlin was heavily wooded at one time.

36167. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would it be to subside the nature that the wood was cut down?—I don't think so. Fuel is exceedingly scarce, and in their stress the poor people are forced to burn sods and "laughans" or dried corduroy. These give off large volumes of smoke which makes its way out, as moved by the doors and windows as by the chimneys. The dwellings are small, and overcrowded, and in many cases, built of dry stone and plastered with mud. The windows and doors are small and low, much light is shut out, and no attention whatever is paid to the necessity of ventilation. They are mostly thatched with reeds from the half-dried lakes that are so numerous on the island. The out-offices are very bad, and the sanitary condition of the premises leaves much to be desired. The people are too poor to improve them. Under these conditions it is surprising to see the inhabitants so well-grown and healthy. They, however, and many generations of those who went before them, exist on the principle of the survival of the fittest, the delicate ones of them dying off young.

36168. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Have you any knowledge of the working of Parish Committees under the direction of the Congested Districts Board in other parts of the country?—I have not.

36169. Very good results indeed come from the working of such Committees in the congested areas. Sanitation has been improved, and in many cases the overcrowding of houses has been remedied. Do you think that a Parish Committee on the island here would be able to effect a considerable improvement in remedying the defects to which I refer?—Undoubtedly, if it had the resources of the Congested Districts Board or some such body at its back.

36170. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Do they keep the cattle in the dwellings here?—In some cases they do, they are forced to do it.

36171. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Would I be right in saying that the majority of the people on the island keep the stock in their houses?—No. The majority do not. I would say that only a very small proportion of them do. They know it is wrong. The people are not at all ignorant naturally. If they got an opportunity many of them would be clever. There are very smart men on the island, but poverty prevents them from bringing about better conditions than those existing.

36172. Mr. BYRNE.—There are lots of stores all about, and it should not be very difficult to use local labour in the winter, making byres for the cows?—You would need roofing. They can hardly grow sufficient straw to fodder the cattle in winter, and they have recourse to the reeds in the half-dried lakes for thatch. It is the only way they have of covering the houses that they live in.

36173. Is there any encouragement given by the County Committee to the islanders to improve their houses through a prize scheme?—No. You would have to have the standard very low, so that any of them might come within the long corners of a prize scheme.

36174. Is there any such scheme at work on the mainland?—Yes, for holders of small allotments of lands and cottages.

36175. You consider that the condition of the island is not sufficiently advanced to enable them to avail of a prize scheme?—It could not apply at all with any hope of success, the houses are so very bad and the people so poor. They eat, and do endure hardships and privations that would wipe out a more tenderly-reared race at once. Their lot at present is a sad one. They have been drifting from bad to worse. Without money and without credit the outlook is dismal indeed. The eyes of the young men and women are looking to foreign lands.

36176. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Father McGowan told me that there was not any inclination on the part of the young people to go away?—He meant that they were not inclined to migrate, but they do go away. They must go because they cannot live on the land. They do go.

May 22, 1907.

Mr. JOHN BYRNE.

May 12, 1907

Mr. John
Byrne.

36207. Mr. O'Kearney.—They have no objection to going 3,000 or 4,000 miles away from the island of Rathlin, but they have an objection to going from one end of it to another—I don't know that. They never got a chance. I think that the circumstances of some people in the island are such that before there can be any improvement effected there must be migration.

36208. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I think that the drift of Father McGowan's statement with regard to migration was that the young people did not go to Scotland for labour—Not the same as in the West of Ireland, but they leave the place altogether.

36209. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—Assuming that the Ballycastle coal mines develop into a big thing, I suppose in the natural course you would expect that there would be migration from here over them?—There would be, because the people are very willing to work wherever they can get work. They are not so all a lazy people. Clergymen and others are encouraging them to hold on as they are for a little longer; but the future will be better than the past. It is to be hoped such a change will shortly be brought about in the affairs of the country as will enable those who labour to receive as much for their toil as they could get in our cities or in foreign lands. Such a change, and such a change alone will stop the tide of flesh and blood flowing from our agricultural districts.

36210. Mr. O'Kearney.—What change have you in your mind's eye?—If I went into all the changes that I would like I could talk as long as the Commission would sit, but the better conditions I look forward to in Rathlin are better accommodation for their boats, assistance in procuring boats and fishing gear, money at a low rate of interest to improve the dwellings and farm offices, and assistance to fence the farms. And then there remains proper harbour accommodation at Ballycastle, so that the fish, when caught, may be taken to market.

36211. You refer to changes to be brought about in the affairs of the island and not of the county?—I don't know, but it would apply all over.

36212. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—When you refer to the change necessary to stop the tide of flesh and blood flowing from our agricultural districts, presumably you are aware that this is not a problem peculiar to Ireland, and that even in the Colonies and in new countries the great difficulty is to prevent the people in the country from drifting into the towns?—Yes, because the towns can afford on account of the enormous profits that they make to pay higher wages than the farmer can afford, and the tendency of modern days is to richly endow the education of young men and women in cities and starve the intellect in the country, and that attracts them to city life.

36213. You do recognise that it is really a problem that is facing the whole world—America, the Continent, and all continents?—It is facing us very much.

36214. We feel it very much in Ireland. Therefore, what could be done properly and legitimately should be done to encourage people to keep out of the towns and stay in the country?—Yes. Educate them well there, and give them an opportunity of making their livelihood on the land a profitable one.

36215. Mr. O'Kearney.—The exodus from the country districts in England is different from the exodus from Ireland in this sense, that it is an exodus to towns where they get remunerative employment, but the exodus in Ireland is not into Irish towns but into foreign lands, because in all probability they would make as much in agricultural districts in Ireland as in the towns in Ireland?—In North America a great many people gravitate to Belfast and Glasgow.

36216. Belfast is about the one city to which your observations apply, but take the county generally, and I suggest that the problem is different from what it is in England?—I was not aware of that.

36217. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Your proposition seems to be, that with a reasonable expenditure, the condition of the people could be improved so as to enable the island to support in comfort a much bigger population?—Yes. The present population is a tedious round which can be built up a larger population on the island.

36218. Mr. BYRNE.—What evidence have you that the condition of the islanders long ago was better than

it is now?—I heard old Rathlin men say that the people long ago had more money in their hands.

36219. Do you say that the larger population, before the famine, was better off than the present population?—Yes. They had more wealth in their hands in cash.

36220. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—Did you ever inquire whether in those days there was such a thing as a pair of shoes on the island?—I did not.

36221. Mr. BYRNE.—Is it not quite possible that the people have better houses and so forth than then?—I do not think that there has been much improvement.

36222. In the West of Ireland there is a great improvement. In the great majority of the poor parts of Ireland the cattle did live in the houses, and now they don't; the general standard of life has been raised, and although the people have not got more money, they are actually spending more in their life than they did in former days. That applies to other parts of Ireland. Is it your impression that that is the case here?—The people cannot improve here for money is very scarce.

36223. But it is possible that they may spend less money they have in an improved standard of life; don't you think that is the case?—I don't quite comprehend what you mean.

36224. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Whether it is an improvement or not there is greater expenditure incurred now?—Yes. The people wear better clothes and are better fed.

36225. Don't they drink more tea?—Yes.

36226. There is greater expenditure on tea; whether it is a desirable expenditure or not is a different question. It is questionable also whether all the expenditure on boats is a desirable thing. I don't say that it is questionable in the sense that the expenditure on tea is questionable. Probably there is more spent on tobacco all over Ireland than there used to be in those days?—Of course.

36227. Have you any idea whether before the famine a much larger population on the island was engaged in fishing than now?—The last time Mr. Byrne was on the island he was told by an old man that he saw three smacks lying in Usher Harbour, very large fishing boats.

36228. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—Locally owned on the island?—Yes.

36229. Mr. BYRNE.—I don't think there is any doubt that the fishing industry was better in former days, and that the boats were better?—The boats were very much larger.

36230. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—There would be no great chance of improving the industry now unless the transit facilities were improved?—That is the first and great requirement.

36231. Mr. BYRNE.—Talking about tea, what price do they pay for their tea on the island?—It varies. About 2s. a pound is the average.

36232. Do they drink much whiskey?—I think they would if they got a chance. I believe it is a question of money. They are not all teetotalers.

36233. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—How many public-houses are there on the island?—Only one.

36234. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—We have it that the police are not requisitioned to keep the peace?—No. One of the worst things in Rathlin is a Black Man's Mood and an anger. They may talk as much as they like, but they never strike.

36235. They require some little argument, but they don't carry it too far; they don't come to them?—They do not.

36236. Mr. O'Kearney.—They are an exception to the ordinary rule among Irishmen?—They have no boats. They have more sense in that way than people in the West have.

36237. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—If you had large fishing boats could they be anchored with safety in any of the existing harbours?—If there was a large boat belonging to the island at the present time, the nearest anchorage at which it could lie in safety would be Larne or Portlough.

36238. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—Where did they buy these larger boats that they used to have in the old days?—At Usher.

36239. That harbour is not available now?—It is not.

36240. Mr. BYRNE.—It is blocked up by stones?—Yes.

36241. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—Your opinion is, knowing the people, and knowing the circumstances of the place, that if there was harbour accommodation there

would be an effort to have bigger boats—Undoubtedly. It is the great desire among the people to have larger boats. It is a very dangerous channel to cross. No later than two days ago a man who bought some cattle in the island was crossing over with them. There was a pretty stiff breeze, and the boat was lying down under the water was nearly six inches over the lee gunwale. There were three bodies on the boat. One got knocked down by the other two and had to be trailed under a beam back to her place while the boat was under weigh in a heavy sea.

36242. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The gist of your evidence seems to be this, that for the adequate development of the fisheries you would require harbour accommodation on the island so that boats of considerable tonnage might be anchored here with safety?—Yes.

36243. That is the first thing?—Yes.

36244. Then you would require some landing facilities on the mainland to enable the fish to be sent to market?—Unless there are landing facilities and safe anchorage accommodation at Ballycastle there is no use in giving them at Rathlin. The holdings on the island may be classified as follows:—House and garden only, 14; 65 valuation and under, 7; 60 valuation and under, 14; 510 valuation and under, 10; 515 valuation and under, 19; 520 valuation and under, 6; 525 valuation and under 550, 5. Over 550, 1. Compared with the valuation of land in other places, I consider that on the island very high. It looks as if inconsequence of access was left out of consideration altogether.

36245. Sir JOHN COOKE.—You speak as a farmer knowing the land, and comparing it with a similar area of land on the mainland. You say that it is really much the same, and that no allowance was made in the valuation for want of access?—Yes. I believe that is the basis on which the valuation must have been made. Even when the rent was at its highest point it never approached £1,000 a year, and the valuation is £1,000. Before the Land Act of 1881 rents on the mainland were usually above the valuation.

36246. We may take it from you that if there was a new valuation here there would be a fall in the valuation of Rathlin as compared with the mainland?—Undoubtedly.

36247. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have you any idea why Rathlin was so highly valued?—It was one of the last places valued, and as they came on here the prices were increasing.

36248. Would you be able to trace the year in which Griffith's valuations were on the island? If they were here at a time when the islanders were disposing of their products to advantage it might have influenced their judgment?—Yes. Nearly over the whole island the land is held in rounds. In some cases one partner holds the rounds grazing one year, and another partner has it the next.

36249. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Do you mean to say it alternates?—Yes, and rotates where there are more than two.

36250. When the Land Court heard these cases did this point come up?—The holdings are not inspected yet. There was a good deal of difficulty in the Land Courts because the boundaries are not defined, even on the 35-inch map. They are put down as in rounds and grouped together. When Mr. Robinson, the Sub-Commissioner, comes over he will have to define them himself, or the Ordnance Survey Office will have to send down a man to define them.

36251. Assuming that there is a question of purchasing either directly from the landholder, or by any other mode, do you, or do you not, consider that the round is a dangerous system, and that no permanent arrangement should be made which would perpetuate it?—That is my opinion, certainly. I am about to deal with that. In one or two townlands one ridge belongs to one man and the next one to another.

36252. Yet the people don't quarrel?—No.

36253. Then they are very superior in that particular to people in a great many other places in Ireland?—Farming could not possibly be carried on successfully under these conditions, and one of the first steps that should be taken to improve the place should be the re-adjudgment of the boundaries, leaving every man a farm

to himself. The methods of cultivation followed are not good. Rotation of crops is unknown. Artificial manures or feeding stuffs are rarely, if ever, used. Artificial grasses are seldom sown, the sweepings of hay being mostly relied on. As may be expected from such a procedure, weeds, not alone the indigenous ones, but also those imported in the land, and the grass sward is very light and of the very worst quality. There is one weed—darnel ryegrass—(*Lolium temulentum*) the seeds of which are noxious. It grows in great abundance and cannot be separated from oats and barley by the crude method followed here in cleaning grain, and it is ground up with them into meal and used as food. Agricultural machinery cannot be used owing to the small size of the plots capable of cultivation and the prevalence of stones on the surface.

36254. Is there a doctor on the island?—No.

36255. And no dispensary?—No. It forms part of the dispensary district of Ballycastle, and the dispensary medical officer from Ballycastle attends here when required.

36256. In bad weather, when men or women get sick, how do they manage?—They have to wait until the weather is good.

36257. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Mentioning the sick person may die?—They hold on as long as they can. In some cases if the stones were removed the land would be left barren.

36258. Mr. BURKE.—That is to say the soil would be washed off?—Not exactly that. It is rather due to the fact that these stones throw off a coating every year which contains valuable ingredients for crops. If the land was deprived of these ingredients by the removal of the stones it would be barren, it is so exceedingly poor in itself. At the hay, the soil is composed of shingly limestone that throws off a coat of carbonate of lime with a little phosphorus every year and gives fair crops. It is unfortunately full of the seeds of charlock, and spraying with sulphate of copper is never tried on it or on potatoes. Green crops are little grown, and stolen crops are unknown. As very little hay, and only a small quantity of oats, is grown, the fodder for cattle and horses during the winter is very scarce. The growth they make in summer is checked by the hardships of winter, and they are late in arriving at maturity. During the summer they have to be herded on the hillsides and knolls among the cultivated plots during the day, and kept in walled-in enclosures, called locally tanks, at night. Needless to say the practice is destructive to wool, and is most injurious to cattle. Dairy management is not understood. Milk is usually kept in the dwelling-houses, and little benefit is derived from the milk cows, which on the mainland are the mainstay of farmers. Poultry farming too is neglected, though the place is admirably suited to it. In the time of the late Mr. Robert Gage, a late resident owner of the island, the cattle were much better than they are now. He kept good cattle, horses and pigs for breeding purposes, and let the tenants have the use of them free or at a nominal charge. Since he died no bulls were imported, and in-and-in breeding has been followed, attended by all the evil consequences resulting from the practice when indiscriminately carried on, leaving the progeny easy victims to tuberculosis. A few years ago through the action of the Agricultural Committee of the County Council the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction lent a bull for a couple of years that was of great service. The last one was, unfortunately, kept too long on the island, he lost condition, and was sold at a small figure in Dublin after he was returned. Since that they did not send another.

36259. Sir JOHN COOKE.—Can you give me the date when that bull was returned?—November, 1905. The late Chief Secretary, however, was around here with Mr. Glendonning last autumn, and his attention was drawn to the matter with the result that one is to be sent this year, and it is to be hoped the islanders will not be again made the subject of, if some of the officers of the Department neglect to discharge their duty.

36260. That seems to throw discredit on the Department. Can you tell us shortly what was the neglect of their duty?—The Agricultural Committee of the county of which I am a member pressed on the Department the necessity of doing something,

May 22, 1907.

Mr. John Byrne.

May 25, 1907.

Mr. John
Byrne.

in Rathlin, in which the Committee was most interested. They were very anxious that something should be done for the island owing to the exceptional circumstances under which the farmers live here. They approached the Department of Agriculture and suggested that a bull should be lent to the islanders. The Department were told that the bull should not come earlier than the month of June and should be taken off not later than the end of September. The first year in which one was sent it was returned towards the end of September in very good condition. Mr. Gosdon of the Department of Agriculture came here and saw the bull on grass, and said that he could not be better in Rathlin than here. They were at the time buying bulls all over the country. The Department was not very well organised to meet all this business, and I really think that they forgot that there was a bull on the island, and instead of sending for it at the end of September they left it here exposed on the hills, and it went back in bad condition. I actually met the man who kept the bull in Ballycastle one day, and he asked me what were they going to do with the bull. I asked was it not gone back to Dublin, and he said no. I immediately telegraphed to the authorities, and he was sent for. The Department promised the islanders for that by not sending another bull. A considerable number of horses are bred, but no benefit whatever is received from the Horse-Breeding Scheme of the Department, although a halfpenny in the pound is levied for Agricultural and Technical Instruction. When horses and cattle are reared and grain is ready for sale the difficulty is to get all to market. The horses, owing to the small size of the boats in use, are thrown on the rough stones on the boat-slip, and tied, and dragged into the boat, where they often have to remain for three hours, during a slow passage. Sometimes their backs are injured, sometimes their hoofs, and the pasture is always infested from the hard ropes knotted around them, the inflammation sometimes subsiding, leaving no mark, but often a permanent thickening takes place to the great injury of the animal and loss to the owner. For some years past there are some horses on the island so large they cannot be got over though the owners have been most anxious to dispose of them. A similar state of things exists as regards springing cows. They cannot be safely taken over when near the calving, though it is then they are in the most valuable condition. Young cattle are taken steading. Occasionally one jumps overboard and has to be lifted in again, and sometimes one becomes deranged from fear and has to be thrown out and towed ashore, and then taken in again. After such treatment they are not in the best condition for sale, and have to be parted with at a loss. Grain hardly ever reaches the port without damage from sea water, and must be sold at a low figure. To remedy that state of affairs the first thing to be done is to improve the best ports around the island and at Ballycastle. After the visit of the Chief Secretary the Government offered £1,000, as was indicated here, to clear out Usher Harbour and improve the one at Church Bay. The County Council supplemented it by £500, and all here were under the impression that £1,500 was to be spent, but it appears only £900 is to be used.

3625a. Have you heard that on good authority?—I have that from the County Surveyor. How the other £400 got lopped off is not known here. It would have been all needed to have done even a little at all the ports used. Even the £900 seems slow in coming forward. It has got entangled in red tape somewhere. I believe it is not at the County Council. If anything is to be done this year it is time a commencement was made. It is very disappointing that nothing is about being done or even promised to be done at Ballycastle. Several very narrow escapes from drowning occurred there during the winter. Many Rathlin boats were injured and some destroyed altogether in trying to enter the port. It is more dangerous now than ever it was, and there is little use in providing accommodation for deep-sea fishing boats at Rathlin if they cannot get into their market place with their catch.

3625b. Why is it more dangerous now than ever?—It has slipped up a great deal. Ballycastle has always been the islanders' only market town. There is a good demand for fish there, and what is not locally required can be sent to other places by rail. The cattle,

sheep, horses, and grain are all sold in it, and the improvement of the harbour there is closely mixed up with the welfare of the island. The only other harbour on the mainland within easy reach of the island is at Ballylough, and it, too, is very dangerous in certain winds. All parties sincerely wish something may be done, and done very shortly, to improve Ballycastle Harbour. If it were fit to receive the boats that can be kept at Usher, after it is repaired, large quantities of fish that are now allowed to pass the island untouched would be captured. At present there is no inducement to fish. There is no spring establishment on the island, though it is essential there should be one. When large shoals do come to the Channel, if it is at all rough, they cannot be brought to market, and they go to loss when brought ashore here in large quantities. There is just one other matter I wish to draw attention to, and it is the want of some educational system to teach children subjects that would be beneficial to them in that calling in life they were likely to follow; such as the names and habits of fish found around the island; the names and peculiarities of plants on shore and in the sea; the names and descriptions of the rocks of the neighbourhood; and the soils derived from them; the curing of fish; handicraft; breeding and management of stock, and the great benefit to be derived from co-operation. I would like to add that the island labourers under a great grievance in being forced to contribute to the upkeep of the main roads of the County Antrim. Through the majority of the District Councils of the county passed a resolution against any system of main roads, and the County Council did the same, the Local Government Board stepped in and said, "You must have main roads," and included Rathlin within the district that should contribute. They have another great grievance in being called on to pay for the sanitary expenses of the dispensary district of Ballycastle. They receive no benefit whatever from the gravestones water supplies provided for villages and towns on the mainland. It is most unfair for them to be called on to pay that expense. If you would permit me I would like to refer to another matter that I consider of great importance, that is, the mining industry of Ballycastle, which would strengthen our claim on the Government to do something for the harbour. You are all aware that some of the oldest mines in the United Kingdom are along the shore here. For a long time they were worked, and they gave a great amount of employment, but of late years they have not been much worked. We have a great grievance against the Geological Department for sending a report to the Government, which was published by the House of Commons, that the Ballycastle coal was worked out. A stranger, Mr. Brande, came here and prospected and felt satisfied that there were coal deposits. He made borings and found coal. He sent a shaft, and succeeded in getting coal, which is now being worked. Very expensive machinery is also being erected for brick-making. A very valuable set of slates—freestone has been discovered by which good architecture can be made, and I believe that the same class of raw material does not exist elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

3626. Sir JOHN CROWE—I think that the Commissioners are fully alive to the importance of the matter, and quite understand your object in bringing it forward.

3627. Mr. O'KELLY—How many fishing stations are there around here?—Ballycastle and Ballylough.

3628. What are the pier facilities for landing fish in these two stations?—In both places the landing facilities are very bad.

3629. Have you many fishermen in Ballycastle station?—Very few. Not more than half a dozen. When I came to Ballycastle thirty years ago there were a great many families that lived by fishing, but when the harbour got into bad repair they could no longer use the boats they had been in the habit of using. The harbour is much worse now than then. They gave up fishing when there was more steady employment available in the building operations that took place.

3630. What are the harbour facilities at Ballylough?—There was a company worked the limestone there that made a good harbour, but it got filled up with sand in a storm. The harbour is private property.

36266. How many fishermen are there at Rathlin?—I don't know. The bay there is very good for fishing. There are a good many flat fish and haddock.

36267. I understand that the pier there needs to be improved?—Yes; for the convenience of the fishermen there.

36268. How many boats are there; would there be thirteen?—There might be about ten. I cannot say accurately.

36269. Where are the fish sold?—They are sold in Ballycastle mostly. Some go to Portrush and some to Belfast.

36270. If you were asked to say which of the two harbours had a price claim to any expenditure that might be made, which would come first in your view?—Ballycastle.

36271. Why?—Because it is the harbour for Rathlin.

36272. How many fishermen are engaged in Rathlin?—Every man on the island is interested in fishing.

36273. How many miles is it from Rathlin to Ballynaly?—It is nine miles from the west end.

36274. And from Ballynaly?—It is about the same distance from the west end, but at Ballynaly there is the demand for fish, and what they catch at Rathlin they have to bring to Ballynaly to sell, and a good harbour at Ballynaly would enable the Rathlin fishermen to sail up and sell their fish in the harbour from their boats. The distance is only six miles.

36275. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What would be your idea of the means by which milk and butter might be so treated as to give the best returns to the purchasers?—I notice that in Belgium they have small creameries, and I don't see why a small creamery should not be established here. In the summer, when they would be getting the largest return from the cattle, the cream could be taken over to the mainland and sent to the creamery at Arney railway station. That could be done regularly in the summer time. There used to be a very good class of milking cows on the island.

May 26, 1907.

Mr. John Byrne.

Rev. F. Lavery examined.

36276. Sir James Cosgrave.—You are, at present, parish priest of Portlough, but you were here for a considerable time many years ago?—Yes. I came in 1883—twenty-four years ago—and I left in 1897. I am generally called what Mr. Byrne has said with regard to the state of the island. What I wish to emphasise is this: in my opinion the state of the island is steadily getting worse. That arises from the cause. When I came here first, Mr. Gage was the landlord. He took an interest in the island. It was his interest to do so. He knew the people individually. He was the head of the island. He provided proper cattle for the islanders. There was a good breed of cattle here at that time. They had good boats. He gave facilities with regard to building and things of that kind. He had a luncheon. All these things are gone away. What the island wants now is organisation more than anything else. You have a crowd of people on the island, but no organisation and no co-operation among them. They are simply wild. If the Congested Districts Board could organise them with regard to the cultivation of the land, the fishing and cottage industries, I think that that would meet the requirements of the case.

36277. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You think that instruction would be necessary?—There is no question about it, because the people have received no instruction. On the mainland you have got agricultural societies and cottage industries. You have got prices for nearly-kempt cottages, and so on, but there is no such thing here. You have a crowd of people without a head.

36278. You seem to indicate that it would be necessary to plant an instructor here for a considerable time?—Yes, if there was a person who would take general charge of the island and cultivate the things that exist on the island, before they would advance to anything that would be very new, if the Agricultural Department would supply them with a good breed of cattle, and if the fishing industry were taken up the same as in Donegal and other places and the people got facilities for obtaining boats, fishing tackle, and all the rest of it, I think it would improve the island immensely.

36279. You think that by means of a practical instructor an advance would be made in agricultural industries and fishing, and then the people might be got to co-operate and form some local organisation to keep up these industries?—Yes; I would go in for co-operation among the people, but you must have someone to direct them in that, as they have no idea of it.

36280. Sir James Cosgrave.—That was done in your time by Mr. Gage, the landlord?—Largely. Mr. Gage, unfortunately for the island, died, and his successor did not reside on the island.

36281. Did Mr. Gage reside on the island?—He did. He died about 1880.

36282. That beneficial influence having ceased you want now to give the people the best chance, some person with authority and knowledge for sympathetic dealing with the organisation of the island to enable

them to help themselves?—That is my idea, if you want to improve the island.

36283. Assuming that the holdings pass into the possession of the individual tenants, the fact will not remove the necessity for the course which you suggest?—It will not.

36284. Do you or do you not think it will increase it rather?—As far as changing the proprietorship of the holdings is concerned it is no practical remedy by itself. If the island is going to be improved there must be someone to organise them.

36285. In fact you want authority that is sympathetic and benevolent to take the place of what formerly existed in the shape of the landlord?—Yes. Take the case of my present parish. I am parish priest; I am always there; I can organise things and carry them on; but here you have the priest changed every year, and I presume it is the same as regards the Protestant clergyman here. He has no facility of tenure. It stands to common sense that a priest coming here every twelve months or a Protestant clergyman coming for a short time has not got the same power or interest to organise the people into practical shape. What they want is organisation.

I endorse nearly everything that Mr. Byrne has said with regard to the state of the holdings and the agriculture of the island. The only manner they have here is the seaweed that comes from the beach. There used to be a luncheon in Mr. Gage's time and the people could get here, but there is no such thing now. They have got to take it from the mainland.

36286. Is the limestone worked out?—No; but there is no limestone. There is no fuel on the island.

36287. In Mr. Gage's time he kept the Rathlin grange?—Yes. I got one kiln of lime burned there myself. I built a house on the island. I had to bring everything from the mainland except the stones and the lime that I got burned by Mr. Gage.

36288. Did he sell the lime to the people?—I presume he did. He brought a cargo of coal every year to the island and kept it there, and the poor people could go in any time they wished and get a cart of coal. There is no such thing now. There is a necessity for some central authority to dispense these things to the poor people who cannot go and buy five or six tons of coal in the summer time, and if the Congested Districts Board is going to do anything to remedy the condition of the people this dispensing authority must be resident on the island. In my time here there were a number of people who were employed as sailors. There were three or four small vessels—wooden vessels—belonging to people on the island, and boys, naturally when they came to a certain age were employed on these vessels as sailors. These small vessels have been swept off the coast of Antrim altogether, and you have nothing but steam vessels now. That is one great source of employment gone from the island. The people cannot afford to get trades. They cannot send their children away to England, Scotland or Belfast to get trades. They are utterly helpless for want of instruction. If there is any place in the world where we should have practical instruction it should be here, to put the people into the way of making a living for themselves.

Rev. F. Lavery.

May 22, 1907.

Rev. E.
Lavery.

36288. Both boys and girls?—Yes. Suppose you take a farm of five or six acres what can the occupant do? They can do nothing for their families. They don't live. They simply exist on it. In my time the fishing was carried on very much here, because they had drift nets, which they drew at night, and there was not a night that nets were not drawn in the bay, and the fish were then brought to Ballycastle. Now it is not done.

36289. Do you connect the cessation of that with the disappearance of the landlord?—Yes. I attribute the whole thing to the want of a head, and would urge that the Congested Districts Board should send down someone to organize the country and put them into the way of carrying on a self-government.

36290. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Afterwards you would want a committee of trustees for the island who would regulate a number of things and make provision for those whose circumstances were particularly poor?—I suppose you are referring to the district committees established in some places. Something of that kind has in what the island wants.

36291. Mr. O'KELLY.—The parish committee and also the sub-committee of the agriculture and technical committee?—You have plenty of intelligence in Rathlin Island, and if there was somebody to direct their energies in a proper direction and establish a committee to teach them what to do, how to labour the land and make the most out of the fishing, and to encourage cottage industries, it would make them a self-supporting community and give them an idea of independence.

36292. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Your committee would have wider functions than are generally assigned to such committees. They would have a sort of general function to promote industries that the island requires?—To try to indicate what would be necessary here.

36293. I take it while they need instruction that they would not expect all the instruction in the different departments from any one instructor. An instructor in one or two departments might come and reside here for half a year and might be succeeded by an instructor in another department, both instructors having the duty of carrying on the organisation?—Yes; but at the same time there should be some general director to suggest what would be necessary. A person to do anything for Rathlin Island must come and reside on it; must know the circumstances of the people, and their habits and capacities. The landlord I speak of occupied that position. He spoke Gaelic among the people. He met them coming from Ballycastle and saw them going away. He was one of themselves. I don't know that it is possible to get anyone in that position now.

36294. You would not consider it desirable to continue that system if you could substitute a system under which people would do things for themselves?—I would not.

36295. When a man disappears there is nobody to take his place?—Yes. It has been my idea to have a man to organize them and teach them to understand their own position and that they must stand or fall by themselves.

36296. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—You mean also a continuity of organisation no matter whether the man who controls changes or not?—Yes. Then the people would have the habit of governing themselves, and would be able to make Rathlin a republic in a certain sense.

36297. Do you attribute to the absence of a guiding hand the decline of the fishing?—To a large extent. When there was a population of 1,120 on the island there was a large number of fishing boats and many people lived by fishing, and went over to the mainland and sold their fish. I don't think that there is anybody at the present time living by fishing on the island. When I came here first there were people who went in for shell fishing. I don't know that that exists now.

36298. Mr. BAKER.—Crabs and lobsters?—Yes. I don't think that anyone possesses that now. It would be a most remunerative thing.

36299. Do you attribute that to the fact that the port at Ushak has got full of late years, or what?—No. There is no such thing as fishing carried on here as a profession.

36300. Why did it come to be a profession?—First of all you had a burning population obliged to live somehow, and they were obliged to go to fish. The

population at the present time is able to swim along one way or another. They have a bit of land; they burn kelp and so on, but they have nobody to direct them.

36301. But you think that the island is worse off than in your time?—That is so.

36302. It is better off in the way now that they are able to live off the land in some way or another, while formerly they could not do so?—They have an industry now that they had not when I was here. That is livestock.

36303. There are only fifteen engaged in that?—In Rathlin fifteen heads of families mean a good deal. The Rathlin people are not living in the proper sense of the term. They are existing. I think they could be made self-supporting.

36304. Mr. O'KELLY.—Have they relatives in America?—Very few. I was talking to the priest who was here in 1854, and he told me that 300 people sailed from the boat-ship there to America. On another day when it was here 100 people went to America. As far as I know they were never successful in America. They are untrained and are unable to make the necessary struggle.

36305. What was the failure due to?—They were not instructed; they were illiterate; and they were not used to the conditions of city life in America. People from a place like this make a very poor show in a large city.

36306. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You would think the natural outlet for many of the hardy here is an island like this would be to go to sea?—Yes. When I was here there were four vessels belonging to Rathlin, and when a boy grew up he went on board one of these vessels.

36307. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—It was a nursery for seamen?—Yes.

36308. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—If you had for anchorage the men might have large boats and pursue the fish wherever they were found?—Yes. I doubt they shall get a port here. It has not been made a reality as yet, but I think it will be if properly attended to, and fishing boats of large size could go in two. They could not have them now. What would you do with a boat in the winter time? In the proper sense of the word there are no fishermen here at all, but fishing could be developed if loans for boats were given, as they were at Baltimore and other places, if there was someone to direct the people.

36309. If a man wanted to buy a boat on the loan system would there be anyone to go security for him?—I don't think so. They would not know how to go about it. The condition of the people here is the most hopeless of any people I have met. Nobody seems to take the slightest interest in them whatever.

Formerly Mr. Gage bought the kelp on the island and stored it and shipped it away. Now the people have got to bring over their little bits of kelp in the midst of a storm perhaps, and they are entirely at the mercy of the purchaser. They cannot bring it back again, but must take what they can get for it. Really the state of the people here is very bad. I am not heard of any place that deserved so much attention, and got so little.

36310. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Have you ever been in West Cork?—Yes. I have been there on my holidays. If we had a harbour here and somebody to direct the people in fishery industry, and put them on the way of getting boats and nets I have no doubt that plenty of the boys of Rathlin would be able to make a good living by fishing, but they are not equipped at all for fishing now. Cottage industries are unknown here. I don't think that they ever got a grant from the Agricultural Department, except the bull.

36311. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What do the girls do?—They do nothing. Some of them go to service. They work on the farms, little bits of land. They used to gather potatoes and all the rest of it and work about the house, and work at the kelp in the summer time. There is no female employment for them. They have not been taught anything with regard to industries. In the place where I am now they have shirt-making, embroidery, and that sort of thing. That is utterly unknown here.

36312. You think embroidery could be started with advantage?—I am not in a position to say so, but I fancy it could be started here as well as anywhere else. The people certainly are very much inclined to stay at home. They are very much attached to their

houses, and the girls are as intelligent as the men, if not more so.

35314. They would be receptive; and you would think devote great energy and effort to advancing themselves—I don't know about energy and effort. With regard to fishing people everywhere, there is not a great amount of energy. Their living is more or less contingent on whatever turns up. They are always waiting for something to turn up with the tide. What they want is someone to direct their energies. If you take the girls on Rathlin Island and bring before them some scheme by which they would make five shillings a week it stands to common sense that they will be most anxious to do it.

35315. When you talk of Rathlin people desiring to stay at home, that applies not only with reference to foreign countries, but also with reference to the mainland?—It applies even to the Island of Rathlin. Reference was made to migration to-day. I am perfectly satisfied that the great bulk of the people living on the south end of Rathlin would go to America rather than to the north end, and vice versa.

35316. In Derry Island they speak of going to Ireland?—Possibly, when Mr. Gage was the landlord, he used to banish them to Ireland if they did anything wrong. There was an old saying in Rathlin about any boy that was any way troublesome: "Well, Ireland will be his latter end."

35317. Sir JOHN COLSON.—I suppose that Mr. Gage really fulfilled the position of an old chieftain, in a sense? I suppose it was really a benevolent despotism, in a sense; not in a harsh sense—I never saw anything harsh with regard to Mr. Gage.

35318. But he did exercise control?—He exercised control with vigour.

35319. Mr. O'KEEFE.—What is the particular objection of the people on the north end of the island to go to the south end?—Because they love their homes.

35320. Does not everyone in Rathlin know everyone else?—Oh, yes.

35321. They are all neighbours?—Quite so. I don't know whether you have the same thing in the West of Ireland that they have here. I have never been in a parish yet in which there was not rivalry between the two ends of it.

35322. I can understand the objection which have been urged over and over again on the part of, say, people of the County Mayo to go to the County Roscommon, where they have got to go to a new parish, and where their new neighbours will be strangers to them, and they will be strangers themselves, but I don't know that I ever knew of an objection on the part of the people in the West of Ireland to move from one end of the parish to the other end of the parish?—You have got to come to Rathlin to find that out.

35323. Suppose the change is for the better, would not the objection disappear. Suppose a man had a farm of five acres in the north end and was offered a farm of eight acres in the south end, would his sentimental objection disappear?—He would try to do the best he could, but the island people like to live where they were born. That is my experience.

35324. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would it come to this, that your idea of improving the condition of the people turns on something different from migration?—Yes. I don't believe that the people here would migrate. My idea is, as I have said before, is organisation.

35325. Mr. O'KEEFE.—If they had someone to direct their energies, in whom they would have confidence, on the island, and that particular person pointed out to them the advantage of removing from this place to that place, would they be likely to yield to his judgment in the matter?—Yes; I believe so, but I don't think that there is any possibility of migration in this place at all. That is my impression.

35326. Considering the evidence given by Mr. Byrne, don't you think that there should be a general redistribution of the land among the people of Rathlin?—I don't think it would answer.

35327. Did not you hear his reference to the ransome system?—That is a different thing.

35328. Would not it be well if there was a re-adjustment of boundaries to have a re-adjustment of the whole island altogether?—Yes; if that could be possible.

35329. Why is it not possible?—Because people planted in a place where their ancestors were for hundreds of years, say, "We are not going to leave this place; this is ours."

35330. Take the persons to whom the last witness referred, who have ransome holdings, in which one person owns one hedge and another the next, and so on. That is not a satisfactory state of affairs?—Everybody has ransome here.

35331. Take the system of alternate ridges. That is not satisfactory?—It is most unsatisfactory.

35332. The only way to get rid of it would be to give every man his own farm in the one place?—Yes, but that has been done in many places. That is quite possible, but it is not migration.

35333. It may not be migration but it is a general redistribution of the land?—That has been done in the very parish that I am in.

35334. Let me take a farm of five or six acres. If the owner of that farm were migrated to one of the grazing ranches to which reference has been made, and you gave that man, where he migrated, say, eight acres of land on the grazing ranch, quite contiguous to him, would he have any objection to go?—He would have none.

35335. Then, the land which he would vacate would be available for the enlargement of the holdings of those who remain?—Yes.

35336. If you were to proceed on that principle in Rathlin would the objection which you have raised exist?—It would not.

35337. By following that out, don't you think that a great change could be made in the farms in Rathlin?—Certainly.

35338. To a scheme of that kind very little objection could be taken?—No objection whatever, but my impression was that you meant removing some one from the south end to the north end. There would be no objection to that; but what you describe is quite feasible, and would be a great benefit.

35339. Sir JOHN COLSON.—You have described Mr. Gage as benevolent, and evidently he was a very worthy man in every sense, but yet the state of things existing during his life time, and which he left behind him, was that the whole island was in ransome; have you any reason to believe that he ever regarded that as an evil, because it is an evil?—I have no reason, but I suspect that Mr. Gage was like a great many other people. He had grown up with the system here; he had legislated among the people here, because he was a magistrate, and he found it working pretty well, and he did not want to disturb the existing state of affairs.

35340. It might not be easy; he knew the people thoroughly, and he knew the enormous difficulties of working the change from ransome to free?—There is always very great difficulty in doing it. I have, myself, assisted in dividing farms that were in ransome. It was exceedingly hard to please the people, because they would think that their neighbours were getting the advantage of them.

35341. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is it possible to square the holdings and do away with ransome while leaving the people their present dwellings?—It is possible.

35342. That would diminish the objection very much to squaring the holdings?—There is no difficulty in squaring the holdings.

35343. Mr. BAYNE.—The moment Mr. Gage gave the whole result of his instruction disappears?—What instruction do you refer to?

35344. What you are advancing is some body to take his place?—As a leader; he was not an instructor.

35345. Sir JOHN COLSON.—What you wish to impress on the Commission is this: that the best way of benefiting the people of Rathlin Island is, that swarming the means are granted to some authority, that the authority should devote its efforts to organising the people to help themselves, and to develop industries that are suitable to the island?—Quite so. That is exactly my idea. If I were Carnegie I would not advance the island of Rathlin anything whatever unless to organise them and make them self-supporting, because I would destroy them otherwise.

35346. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You want an authority to unify the people and make them an organised community?—Yes, a self-reliant community. Let them have fishing boats, and a harbour and cottage industries, and the people of Rathlin would be able to get along by themselves.

35347. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Is there any authority in the country that you have in your mind that would be

May 25, 1907.

Rev. F.
Lacey.

able to do these things?—As far as my experience goes, the Department of Agriculture. They assisted me very generously in starting cottage industries in the parish in which I am at present.

36348. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Let me put the question point blank to you. Do you think if the Agricultural Department, by some special arrangement, were given funds and special facilities for dealing with Rathlin Island as a unit, apart from the rest of Antrim, that there would be in that Department what you regard as necessary for the element of head or organisation?—I think that would meet the point; but why not have the Congested Districts Board take up Rathlin?

36349. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You say that the Department of Agriculture helped you in your present parish?—Yes.

36350. Was the help conditional on local assistance?—Yes. We got it from the County Council.

36351. Do you think that it would be really fair to ask local assistance from people such as those you have in Rathlin Island?—Not at all, but from the County Council.

36352. That would exclude the Department from intervention here. Have you got in your mind any other body whose intervention in Rathlin could be secured without involving the people of Rathlin in financial contributions?—I am not well acquainted with the facilities that would apply to such a case.

36353. Leaving the Department of Agriculture out, do you know any body that could interfere?—I do not. But there may be such a body.

36354. What about the Congested Districts Board?—When Mr. Bryce was here last year I spoke to him about this, and asked that Rathlin should be made a separate centre, and that there should be some organ to teach the people to do the best for themselves, and rely on their own efforts.

36355. Have you heard of Clare Island?—Yes.

36356. You know the result of the Boards working in Clare Island?—Yes.

36357. Are not the conditions to be dealt with very much the same here to what they were there?—Yes. I read an article on what was done there. It struck me that that is what is wanted here. There is no resident landlord, no permanent priest, no permanent

Protestant clergyman, and the consequence is that you have a crowd of people without any head. Who is going to lead them? If any man goes up from the crowd himself he will be a marked man among his neighbours.

36358. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You say that the improvement might be carried out by the island being put under the Congested Districts Board, but I would like to ask you whether there is not another possible way of doing it. We were talking to-day of the advantage of having a sub-committee here, working with the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction; suppose that the Department financed the sub-committee independently of the County grant, owing to the special needs of Rathlin, would not that be another way?—Yes. Either way would suit. I think if the County Council could see their way to assist Rathlin they would not hesitate to make a grant to co-operate with either the Congested Districts Board or the Agricultural Department.

36359. You think that the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction would be willing to help Rathlin?—The Committee have always shown themselves willing to help in anything that we proposed, because they made a great deal of the pier there at once.

36360. It is right that that should be put in evidence on the record; but more than that, don't you think that the special needs of different areas especially comparatively poor islands like this, would require differential treatment other than can be given to them under the ordinary scheme of the County Committee?—That is quite certain, because we are in a different atmosphere here altogether.

36361. Then, they should either go under the Congested Districts Board or come under special committees suited to them?—I would say special committees for themselves.

36362. Devoted exclusively to themselves?—Yes. They would take more interest, because if Rathlin came in as part of a general scheme it would be treated like any other place.

36363. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—You want to continue effort?—Yes.

Rev. MICHAEL KEENE examined.

36364. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—You are the Protestant clergyman on the island?—Yes; I have been here almost seven years.

36365. Just state in your own way the chief things that you think the Commission ought to take cognisance of?—I think help might be given towards fencing. There is a great need for fencing the dangerous cliffs. I have known instances where farmers have lost very heavily indeed—animals of all kinds. The loss of a horse here is a very serious matter if a man has not got a second one. The farmers themselves could not do this necessary work of fencing the cliffs, but they could give their time and assistance towards doing it. They could not afford to lay out the capital that would be required.

36366. What sort of a fence do you mean—is it a stone wall?—In some places stone walls have been put up and in other places wire has been tried. Then the houses are quite inadequate for their present occupants. They are too small, and won't hold a growing family, and the young people have to emigrate. They have generally only a kitchen and a bedroom with a play floor and a thatched roof.

36367. Have they got any place to keep cattle?—Very poor.

36368. You agree with the witness who said that only very few of the people keep the cattle in the dwelling-houses?—Yes; very few.

36369. About this housing question—do you suppose that the houses could be improved with a small outlay?—I do.

36370. Do you think that if the people got some assistance they would for that purpose give their time and labour freely?—Most willingly.

36371. I don't know whether you have read of the system of Parish Committees in operation under the Congested Districts Board. The committee works by giving grants of small sums in some cases for the improvement of dwelling-houses, and the experiment

shows that by doing this the value of the improvements effected is four times that of the grants that are given. Do you think from your knowledge of the people that if such a system were adopted here it would operate in the same way?—I do. With regard to farming here, very antiquated farming implements are used, but the people cannot afford to get up-to-date things. Of course that means a loss of time which they could devote to other classes of farm work. There are very few threshing machines here, and only one or two turnip choppers on the island, and they have to cut the turnips with a knife.

36372. Suppose there was an organisation here, and it was known that they would give implements at a price to be repaid by instalments, do you think many of the people would take advantage of the offer?—I think they would. In reference to grazing lands the fencing in of the village portions would be a great advantage. It would allow the young people to get to school, which they cannot do now. They are kept at home herding cattle, and they lose the opportunity of learning in their early days what would be of use to them afterwards. There is no alternative but to keep them at home herding cattle. Wire fencing would prevent that.

36373. It is a question of fencing not only to prevent the cattle from falling down the cliffs, but also to allow the young children who are now kept herding to go to school?—Yes.

36374. Is the school attendance exceptionally low in Rathlin island?—Yes. It is bad on the whole, and this is largely due to the cause that I have mentioned.

36375. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—There is no general fence to keep the cattle away from the cliff side?—No. In a few cases even along the public road the large ranch is not fenced at all.

36376. Mr. BAKER.—What is the percentage of attendance at school?—There are fifty-four in the school, and about thirty is the average attendance.

May 22, 1907.

Rev. Mr. Montague Gore.

36377. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—One of the first things done on Glace Island was to run an enormous fence from one end to the island to the other. One of the advantages was what you have mentioned in reference to enabling children, previously kept at home to herd cattle, to be sent to school?—Yes. It would be a great advantage here. Of course we all feel the need of a harbour. It should be undertaken at once. I was present last autumn when the Chief Secretary came to the island, but nothing has been done.

36378. Mr. BARRY.—The Chief Secretary did not propose anything. He said that he would give the matter consideration, and we have heard to-day that he did get the money—I believe that it is granted, but we have not got anything done.

36379. Mr. O'KELLY.—Do you know what is the cause of the delay in commencing the work?—I do not know what caused the delay except some official reasons. I know that the County Council and the Agricultural Board have given their propertions. In reference to the roads of the island, if there is a harbour made, there is great need of a really good road running through the island. There are some very steep hills, and horses can take up only one-third of what they ought to take up. There is also great need of some local body or committee taking over things.

36380. You heard what Father Lavery said?—Yes. I endorse his view with regard to the need of some authority to enable the people to be put in the way of helping themselves.

36381. You press that very strongly?—I have seven years' experience of that.

36382. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I quite forgot to ask anyone before whether if the transit facilities were improved here and on the mainland there would be always a steamer or some vessel available to take over the catch and the live stock when the people wanted to transport them to the mainland?—I thought perhaps if some authority were to offer a subsidy for a year to some steamship company to come here that after that there would be no need to offer any help in the matter; but at first I suppose there would.

36383. Sir JOHN COLSON.—You don't think that the business of the island could ever sustain or support the private enterprise of running a steamer?—No, but they might call here, the same as the coasting steamers on the West of Ireland.

36384. Are there coasting steamers passing it by?—Yes, but they might not think it worth their while to call at first unless they got some assistance.

36385. Mr. BARRY.—Would it be possible without the expenditure of a very large sum of money to get a place at which a coasting steamer could lie alongside so as to take cattle and so forth on board straightaway without transshipment in a small boat?—Not at present.

36386. The port of Ushet at the south of the island could not be ever adapted for the entrance of a steamer?—It is rather small for a steamer. I believe that a pier has been run up for the steamers that come from Scotland for the limestone here at a cost of a couple of thousand pounds.

36386. That would not be available except in certain weather?—They would not be able to call sometimes, but not so very often. Steamers come here pretty regularly at this private pier for the limestone. I think we would be always dependent on the weather here to a large extent. Sometimes the channel is so rough that no steamer could cross.

36387. By the expenditure of plenty of money you could make a port at which a steamer could call?—In the winter season when it is very rough no steamer could come in continuously, often for ten days at a time.

36388. Sir JOHN COLSON.—I presume that the time for sending away the cattle here is from April to October?—About that.

36389. One would not expect that much transport of cattle would be required in the winter months?—Not during the winter, but in the summer. At present the means are very poor indeed, and cattle are injured being taken over.

36390. Mr. O'KELLY.—From the evidence tendered by the various witnesses the island of Rathlin is in need of having a great many things to assist it?—That is so.

36391. It is not very satisfactory to the islanders to be asking this year for a pier, next year for fencing, next year for drainage, and next year for something else?—It is not.

36392. Has any suggestion been made as to the sale of the land?—Before the death of the late landlord they were asked to sell, and then there was a legal point by which it appeared that they could not do it. They have not been approached since his death.

36393. You would not regard it as a very profitable way of selling the island, merely to transfer the land to the tenants leaving the holdings as they stand, without being improved?—I think it would be a benefit.

36394. Surely you would not think it a benefit to develop the present condition of things?—It would not.

36395. Direct sale would mean that. Say that it was possible to sell through the Congested Districts Board you would be able to have your roads, your fencing, and drainage and organising done within a comparatively short period of time?—Yes. It would be a remedy.

36396. And the fact remains that if we could have the island now purchased in that way all the grievances under which the people now labour would be within measurable distance of being put an end to?—I think so.

36397. Until the land is sold very little progress can be made with those things?—I think so.

36398. Therefore, the first indispensable condition in order to have the whole conditions of life revolutionised on the island is the sale of the property from the landlord to such a body as the Congested Districts Board if the Board could purchase it under the present constitution?—I think that would meet all our needs.

36399. You think that the island should not be sold until a body such as the Congested Districts Board would have power to purchase?—Yes, but the owners are not inclined to sell.

Mr. ROBERT P. WOODSIDE examined.

36400. Sir JOHN COLSON.—You are a member of the County Council of Antrim?—Yes. In 1899 the Antrim County Council formed a Pier and Harbour Committee to deal with the piers and harbours around the coast. The three places that the people in the Ballycastle division are interested in are Ballycastle, Ballintoy, and Rathlin. We considered these three places. The difficulty that we had in the case of Rathlin was that we were limited to the amount of money we could expend on a harbour. To £300.

36401. On any one harbour or on all harbours?—On any one harbour we could spend £300 but no more. The first port we took up was Ballycastle. A sum of about £250 was spent on it. Half that was given by the Department. That was the total expenditure. The County Council, with the help of the Department, levelled the beach pier and raised it. That was done quite as much for the Rathlin people

as for the Ballycastle people. It was done about four years ago. Then we considered the question of Church Bay, the bay in which the steamer is lying now, and the engineer's report was that it would take so much money to do anything there that the project was abandoned. There was a limited amount of money available so far as the County Council was concerned, and the Department said that they would give as much as the County Council would give. Then we went to Ushet. The fishermen on the island said that Ushet was a natural harbour, and could be cleared out, and that it had been a good place for furnished vessels to come into. In fact the story that they tell now is that it was filled up by a good-natured Government to prevent smuggling. Although not a place for large steamers or ships it would do for large fishing boats.

36402. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What class of

Mr. Robert P. Woodside.

May 22, 1902.
Mr. Robert P.
Woodside.

smuggling was supposed to be going on!—That I don't know.

36403. Importations from France or Spain?—I suppose so, but I cannot say.

36404. Mr. BAYNE.—Is it a natural cove which has got a little wall built along one side, and has got a naturally good access, only obstructed by certain buildings?—It is just a natural cove.

36405. Sir James CONNOR.—You regard it as the best side?—Yes; from the information we got from the islanders. It is only three miles across from Fair Head. It is sheltered from the north, and at a time when the boats could not come into Church Bay they could come into Ushet.

36406. Mr. BAYNE.—If Ushet was improved by the removal of these buildings you could get 50 or 60 ton vessels into it?—I don't think you could.

36407. Mr. O'KELLY.—Is Ushet central for fishermen?—No; because it is at the tail of the island.

36408. Is there any other point that would be central that might be suggested as an alternative scheme to Ushet?—The only other scheme that we heard of was that at Church Bay, and the difficulty there is that it is open to the north-west.

36409. But it would be more central to the great majority of the people than Ushet?—Yes, but it would cost so much more. Lately a gentleman here who takes an interest in the island pointed out that at Doon there is a natural harbour that you could bring large steamers into. Nothing has been done by the County Surveyor or by the Congested Districts Board's Engineer to learn what the cost of improving it would be.

36410. Would it cost more to make it at Doon?—I think from what I hear that it would. The County Surveyor and his assistant were at Ushet. They examined it, and here is their report on it (Report produced). Mr. Oliver, the Engineer to the Congested Districts Board and his assistant surveyed Ushet and he made a report to the Department. I have not seen it yet.

36411. Sir James CONNOR.—Can you throw any light on the question of the delay in doing something with the grant made some time ago by the Government and the County Council?—As a matter of fact no grant has been made yet. I have here a letter from Sir James Dougherty, Assistant Under-Secretary, to the Secretary of the County Council. He says he is directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acquaint him, for the information of the County Council of Antrim, that representations have been made to His Excellency that the fishermen of Rathlin Island pursue their calling under great difficulties and that the fishing industry on the island has dwindled away in recent years owing to the lack of proper harbour accommodation for fishing boats. As a result of a special survey which has been made by direction of His Excellency it has been estimated that for an expenditure of £1,000 work might be carried out which would make Port Ushet a useful harbour for the fishermen. It is thought that out of this sum there might be possibly some sum left which could be spent on the extension of the pier at Church Bay. He requests that these facts be laid before the County Council, and that they be informed that His Excellency is prepared to approach the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury with a view to obtaining this grant for the work at Ushet and the enlargement of the pier at Church Bay; and he wishes to be informed how far the Council are prepared to co-operate in making a contribution. That is dated the 31st of October, 1902. It was laid before the Committee on Ports and Harbours and they recommended that £300 should be contributed. That was their limit. All through the County Council and the Agricultural Committee of the county were in great sympathy with Rathlin Island, and they would, I think, have given more if they had the power. After that letter I saw Sir James Dougherty and explained to him that we could not go any further than the £300.

36412. Did you see him?—About six months ago. He said he was aware of that. The Government has under consideration the question of bringing in a Bill to give the County Councils fuller powers to enable them to expend a larger sum than £300.

36413. What impression had the County Council as to the amount of money that the Government were prepared to give?—The Under Secretary says that

£1,000 could well be expended. The County Council say they will give £300. That is all they can give. Then we asked Mr. Oliver to come down and examine Ushet further. He has only just been able to arrange to come down to the 30th of May. The Ports and Harbours Committee will probably be coming over here on the 26th. They are coming down to see Rathlin, and I hope that they will come over here to see Ushet.

36414. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—So the report was that the Government will give for work at Rathlin is not determined?—It is not determined. No grant has been made at all. It is just a promise that the Lord Lieutenant will approach the Treasury with a view to obtaining a grant.

36415. Mr. O'KELLY.—Was the Department of Agriculture approached in regard to this?—Respectfully. We have had many letters on the subject. The County Council might give more than the £300, but they have no power to go beyond it.

36416. Would the same limitations of expenditure apply to arming bridges in connection with piers?—I don't know.

36417. Under what section of the Local Government Act is the County Council prohibited from providing more than £300 for a harbour?—By the Grand Jurors Act, 1836, section 87, as adapted by the Local Government (Procedure of Councils) Order of the 30th of January, 1896.

36418. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The County Council are willing to give £300?—Yes.

36419. After Mr. Byrne's visit a certain amount of money was expected from the Government; what was they talking of?—£1,000.

36420. Would that £1,000 be all expected from the Government, or would it be £1,000 short of the £300?—We take it the Government would give £700.

36421. Do you think if the Department of Agriculture were approached and told that £700 was coming directly from the Government and £300 from the county would they be inclined to supplement the two sums and give some more money?—I could not say. They seem to be in sympathy with anything that people do here if it is for the benefit of the fishermen. They have inspected the ports at Rathlin, Ballycastle and Ballintra, and I think that they are inclined to help as well as they can.

36422. Sir James CONNOR.—Is it within your knowledge that any communications have been addressed to the Fisheries Branch of the Agricultural Department by the County Council, or have communications passed between you and the Fisheries branch on the question of the fisheries of Rathlin?—Yes. The Fisheries Inspectors and the Congested Districts Board Engineers have been over here.

36423. Has Mr. Green been over here?—Yes. Mr. Leane and Mr. Oliver have been over here, and Mr. Oliver's assistant. They made a survey of Ushet, and Mr. Bent made an estimate for the improvements at Ushet.

36424. Did all three concur in the view that Ushet is the most feasible place?—I won't say that. I don't know. I have not seen Mr. Oliver's report nor a survey nor estimate. He is to come to Ballintra on the 26th, and we hope he will be here on the same day, if he can get across. Of course, you see the pier to-day under very favourable circumstances.

36425. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Has he already made an inspection of Ushet?—Yes, but we want him to make a final inspection.

36426. He is coming to complete the estimate?—Yes.

36427. Sir James CONNOR.—How it been under the consideration of the County Council that even if the harbour were improved the traffic to and from Rathlin will not be effective unless Ballycastle Harbour is improved?—That is recognized. One depends on the other. Large boats from Rathlin Island could not get across unless they had a harbour to get into.

36428. That is fully recognized by the County Council?—By the Ports and Harbours Committee.

36429. Mr. BAYNE.—Has that point been brought before the Government, and does the Lord Lieutenant understand it?—I don't know. I think I spoke to Sir James Dougherty about it. One would depend on the other. It is recognized that there is very good fishing to the north of the island, but the difficulty is to get to it. On many days they could fish if they could get out, but they cannot get out. The shore is rough. It is the same at Ballintra.

36430. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The seas are not too rough for fishing, but the men cannot leave the coast?—Yes.

36431. On those days also they could not leave Ballycastle?—That is the difficulty. I have heard recently in reference to Doon Bay, if it was improved that you could bring a large steamer into it.

Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—We are merely concerned with the general condition of the people, and incidentally

with the question of piers and harbours, but we have nothing to do with the selection of sites.

36432. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The reason you refer to Doon is because of the possibility of having accommodation for large ships and schooners?—Yes. The County Council have great sympathy with Ballycastle and are doing everything they can. They have provided three bulls. One is now on the mainland and will be brought over when the weather is suitable.

May 22, 1902.
Mr. Robert F. Woods.

Rev. J. M'GOWAN EXAMINED.

36433. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—You are at present stationed at Ballymacarrett, but were formerly on the island?—Yes. I was administrator on the island ten years ago. That was in 1897, and I remained here until 1898. During that time I became familiar with a lot of things about the island. I would say that the very first thing that is wanted here is proper harbour accommodation on the island and at Ballycastle. This is a matter of pressing necessity. The people require it to protect their very lives. Having to cross this channel when resident on the island the boat had to be assisted into Ballycastle in stormy weather by coastguards who came with ropes. That gives an idea of the tremendous danger around this coast. I heard it stated that some little improvement was made in the slip at Ballycastle, but certainly the islanders are unanimous in saying that the place had been rendered more dangerous than it was before, because the ship is so fixed that formerly they could see along the coast and get out of the way when a wave was coming, but now a high wall shuts out the view, and boats have been washed away when about to land.

36435. Because they would not be the wave coming?—Yes, I think if they had a good, broad road to market they would be greatly facilitated. The high seas are the roads of these poor people. Their provisions are sometimes damaged by water. If the Congested Districts Board or any other Board would help them to get good boats that would sail in any weather it is the thing that would be wanted. During the time that I was here a very good cattle boat was supplied.

36436. When was it supplied?—The hands who formed the crew of the boat of the island here paid a little. I was able to manage a little from other sources. That boat is lying high and dry at Usher, because there is no proper harbour accommodation at Ballycastle and here. It is a boat that would carry cattle and horse standing.

36437. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Could you tell us all about that boat?—It was about 16 feet beam, and between 26 and 28 feet in length. It was built in Portrush by a very good boat builder named Hopkins, who has built boats for the Congested Districts Board. He said that if there was proper harbour accommodation here that boat would stand almost any sea when manned by proper seamen.

36438. How did they get cattle into the boat?—When the weather was fairly good and the tide a fair height they were able to walk the cattle in, but then it was so shallow at Ballycastle that they had to tilt the boat on its side, and it was inconvenient even then to get the horses out.

36439. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—What was the depth of that boat in the water?—About 3 feet.

36440. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Accommodation that would not suffice for a steamer would suffice for a boat like that?—Certainly.

36441. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—How long was that boat actually in use?—Certainly for about a year; but these poor people have not the means to keep up with the wear and tear. The mast got smashed and the rigging got slightly out of order, so it was very dangerous getting into Ballycastle and out of this place. The boat was all right, but the surroundings were all wrong, and it had to be hauled up in winter. When spring came the tackle was out of order; possibly there were no funds to set everything right. The mast got broken, so finally it lay up there, and, at any rate, it became practically useless in consequence of the port of Ballycastle getting gradually filled up.

36442. The boat would suffice for the service, but the moderate landing stages, which were required, were not available?—They were not available.

36443. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—But would the boat suffice for the service, seeing that she drew too much water, for Ballycastle?—The Ballycastle port could be easily deepened.

36443A. But under existing conditions?—These are not suitable.

36444. But the boat could be available if the harbour was deepened at Ballycastle?—Yes; but I would like to see a good boat on. This was simply a private experiment.

36445. What did it cost?—£32 odd.

36446. Was it propelled by oars or by sails?—Both. She was decked and the mast was fitted with booms.

36447. How many head of cattle could she carry?—She could carry six horses standing and was then fairly well packed. One witness mentioned something about stock farms. When I was here, I had it in my mind, the stock farms were exclusively the property of the landlord, because in the landlord's own day he had sheep and cattle on these different farms. Someone remarked here that the late Mr. Gage died in 1891. I don't know who is exactly the owner. I was under the impression that the landlord was still the owner and that the others who had it from him at a yearly rent were just tenants at will. (There is a considerable amount of arable land in grass). It would be a great matter if it could be broken up and split into small holdings, or added to the holdings already existing, so as to make the people more comfortable, because it is a miserable thing to see people farming these small patches. There is a portion of land lying out for sixty years, and no tendency to return to heather, showing the natural fertility of this land.

36448. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would you say that this land now under grass, to which you refer, is deteriorating for want of cultivation?—It is certainly, but it must have been well-cultivated for a while, because it is not back into heather yet.

36449. Your view is that the proper economic use of it is to carry an cultivation?—Yes. There is one great stock farm in the north-west called Kishalee, on the map. No one lives there now, but in former days seven families lived there in comparative comfort. Kishalee is another instance. The ward in parts of it is as green as a lawn, although it has not been cultivated for sixty years. There are other places also used for stock grazing which bear marks of cultivation, and ridges are to be found all over them. It would be a great matter if something could be done to break them up. In reference to migration, people might, in some instances, have to go far away from their homesteads and in such cases houses would require to be got up for them, which would be a matter of expense, but the difficulty might be got over in some way.

36450. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Are there many lands let out to different small tenants to graze their stock?—I discuss that way.

36451. What is to happen these people if it is cut off from their use for grazing purpose?—They would have far more fodder. They could raise far more if the land was cultivated than if it was in grass.

36452. But if there is only an old stock farm and there are a lot of small holders dotted about here and there, and if that is in the landlord's hands and the grazing is available for the small holders, what is to become of the small holders when this accommodation is taken away?—My idea is that the small farms should be enlarged.

36453. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is it the very men who are in the habit of sending their cattle to graze who should have their holdings enlarged?—Yes. They would have an enlargement and have more produce in the end.

Rev. J. M'Gowan.

May 22, 1907.

Rev. J.
McGowan.

36454. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—But those now would be very few compared with the rest of the people further away who now have no outlet for their cattle?—They all have an outlet more or less. They have any amount of what they call mountain grazing. It is not very good, and these ones that I refer to are unable to get that. They were formerly very well labourers, and I think a readjustment could be made in such a way that there could be an equitable division made all round.

36455. With your knowledge of the island would you say that by the appropriation of these stock farms and other lands for the enlargement of the small holdings these holdings could be improved?—I think they could.

36456. Mr. O'KEEFE.—How many acres of unoccupied or unworked land are there?—I think that there are sixty acres marked on that unworked farm there.

36457. And on the others?—About the same.

36458. Sir JOHN seemed to think that if the land was broken up these who grazed it formerly would be at a disadvantage. You do not suggest any change beyond the disappearance of the landlord. Suppose a tenant now is grazing three acres of the grass land, these three acres are to be added on to his old holding. Take a small holder of four or five acres. Say he is grazing three acres from the landlord. If you add these three acres to his holding he does not suffer anything?—No. He gains immensely, because the value of this land is very much enhanced by being put under proper cultivation as long as he has hands to work it. Far more cattle could be put on it with that state of things than if they were just nibbling the grass.

36459. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—I thought that the small holders took the grazing, not by the one at all, but by the beasts they could put on the land?

36460. Mr. BRYCE.—If you bring in this additional tillage it would diminish the total pasture area of the island?—Yes.

36461. Then according to Sir JOHN's suggestion you diminish the number of cattle kept on the island, and your view is that you would not diminish the number cattle, because you say that a system of tillage would produce more fodder which would, with the diminished area of pasture, maintain an increased number of cattle?—Yes. Reference was made to starting industries. That would be an excellent thing. There is no industry on the island at present. In former times the inhabitants manufactured everything they required. They made cloth and made their own articles of dress. There were also shoemakers on the island who made the shoes. The people made their own twine for the fishing lines, and also made their own nets.

36462. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Did they grow flax for the twine?—Yes. There is no flax now on the island and there has not been for many years. The girls seem to be very smart and intelligent. I have met them in the City of Belfast getting on well in domestic service as cooks, housemaids, and so on, and I believe if they were kept at home and some industries established they could be employed usefully. Drainage would be very serviceable. The whole island is considerably waterlogged. If the superfluous water were drained off, the severity of the climate would be moderated a great deal, and the different households would be drier, and the marshy areas of the island would yield fine grass for mowdown, or even be available for cultivation. I notice that money has been spent on building water walls, and I have formed the opinion that if the same amount of money had been spent on drainage it would have drained the damp portions as dry as this room.

36463. What are water walls?—A sort of protection wall along a country road where there is a swamp. The fall is so great that the place could be drained and it would improve the surrounding holdings, because it would take the water away. Some remarks were made about the houses. Some of the houses are not in good condition. The out-offices are very bad. In some instances they have actually fallen. The roofs are very bad. I think that if some scheme could be put on foot to improve the out-offices it would be a great matter. Travellers have done considerable damage here. The wanderers say that repeatedly travellers have been noticed, at nightfall, sweeping round these coasts, quite close to the land—because the water is deep almost to the very shore—and they

have dragged away nets and lines belonging to the local people, and the fishing boats have been spoiled. They say that there is any amount of fish in the water surrounding here, and that almost every load of fish could be caught around here if they had proper fishing boats and tackle. A curing station is badly wanted here. If curing could be established here it would be a great industry. The men on the island understand a good deal about fishing. It would keep the young fellows on the island. A great deal of fish could be caught for curing. The Agricultural Board has done something in the way of improving the breeding of cattle. A great number of people are of opinion that the matter has not got sufficient thought or consideration. Many people are of opinion, and I think that they are right, that the shortness is not adapted to a wild climate like this.

36464. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Was it a shortness they sent here?—I believe so. The farmers think that some animal that would select on very little, like the Ayrshire or some other hardy cattle, would be better. The shortness now does not give much milk on this land, and a bull of some other breed would be far better for the wants of Rathlin Island than sending the best specimens of stock in the kingdom. The sheep also could be greatly improved. They have been very much neglected. When I became acquainted with the island in former days, one man would have as many sheep as you would find in half the island now. It would be a great safeguard to fence the edge of the rocks here, because any amount of cattle has been killed by falling over the cliffs. The first year I was here six horses went headlong over the rocks, which are 300 or 350 feet high. That is a terrible loss to poor men. Another thing which cripples the people here very much is the credit system. A great many things seem to be bought on credit. Sheep, and sometimes cattle are got on credit. The price charged is a high one. It may be a good while until it is paid, and the interest charged is pretty high. Then the cattle may die. I heard of one instance in which a man bought twenty sheep and they all went to destruction. They all went over the rocks or were worried by dogs. That is a terrible state of things for a poor man to have to meet. He made himself liable for a lot of money, and the material to make up the money was destroyed.

36465. Mr. BRYCE.—Was any suggestion ever made to have a credit bank here as they have them in Dingle?—I don't think so. Father Lavery spoke of co-operation and quite rightly, but the people here are not quite ready for that yet. Give the people harbours and boats and improve their habitation. When they realise that life is worth living they will co-operate.

Sir JOHN CONNOR.—I understood it to be Father Lavery's point that out of co-operation would get increased intelligence and activity?—Yes.

36466. Mr. BRYCE.—How are you to do away with the credit system?—It is a very difficult matter. I would be a good thing if money could be advanced on easy terms by an external body like the Congested Districts Board.

36467. The Congested Districts Board assist the banks, but the system is that the people in the locality combine together to become responsible for the loan advanced to them by the Congested Districts Board or by the joint stock banks. That system has succeeded well in places quite as poor as Rathlin. Why should not it succeed here?—I believe it would. Another matter that I wish to refer to is emigration. There never has been emigration here in the real sense of the term to distant countries. In the past ten years not more than one or two went to America. Even in the days after the famine it is stated here by the old people that the people did not go to the United States or Australia, but went off in sailing vessels to the Argentine and died of yellow fever. Nowadays when they do go away it is to England, Scotland, or to towns of the North of Ireland.

36468. Do the people here call going to India going abroad?—They might use it in that sense, because this is the last outpost of civilisation.

36469. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Were those people who went to the Argentine ever traced?—I don't think so. As far as I understand they all died out in a short time.

Mr. Woodside.—The County Council has written to do with the building of the wall at Ballinacree, which is a great danger to the people.

Mr. JOHN McQUEEN examined

May 22, 1897.

36476. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—Where do you reside?—At Usher, Rathlin.

36477. Tell the Commission what are your views about the harbour at Usher?—I am acquainted with the port all my life. What is wanted now is to clear the bottom of it. There is about ten feet of water about half-way in it, and it only wants to be cleared from that in and then faced on the sides. There is nothing but loose stones in it altogether.

36478. Mr. BRYCE.—What depth of water would that give you up at the top where there is a little masonry work?—I suppose that it would give you about seven feet at the top in low water if it was cleared.

36479. Suppose that Usher Harbour were properly cleared, could you keep big boats there, big enough to go out to Ballycastle and take cattle properly?—We have one lying there two years.

36480. In the water, you mean?—In the water, only hanging to the anchor.

36481. It is perfectly safe all through the winter?—Yes, that boat is lying there those two years.

36482. Do you know anything about the boat that was built at Portrush, and is now dismasted; why did not that boat do?—There is no water for the boat to be loaded into. There is no breast outside to bring her to to load cattle.

36483. Are you talking of Ballycastle or Rathlin?—Of Rathlin. There is not sufficient breast to take her and to get cattle aboard to where the water is high.

36484. What would she have drawn when she was loaded?—About five feet when she was loaded.

36485. You say that if the place were properly cleared there would be a depth of seven feet of low water?—There would.

36486. Why could not she be properly worked when she only drew five feet?—There is only about two feet of water there.

36487. That is because it is not properly cleared?—Yes.

36488. That is not the fault of the stones, but is due to sand and mud?—It is mostly stones.

36489. Suppose that the port were properly cleared, could the boat that Father McGowan spoke of do its business in the place?—Yes. I could take the steamer that you came across in into it.

36490. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—Suppose the harbour was cleared for that boat that Mr. Bryce has asked you about, could you get her alongside at Ballycastle?—No.

36491. So unless you improve Ballycastle Harbour, this other improvement would be no good.

36492. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The only advantage would be this: you need not tie the animals in the same way. You could get them on board, and then to land them they have only to swim a little; so it would be some improvement?—Yes. Or you could take them away to some other market. It would not be a very long run from Usher to Larne.

36493. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—Could you take her to Ballinay?—Yes, but you could not bring her ashore there.

36494. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are you a fisherman?—I fished some, but not very much.

36495. What kind of fish would they catch?—The common glaucous.

36496. Are cod and ling caught?—Yes.

36497. Is it for cod and ling the station would be desirable?—Yes.

Mr. JOHN McCURRY examined.

36498. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—You reside at Mig, in Rathlin?—Yes.

36499. Are you a farmer?—Yes. I have 7½ Irish acres.

36500. Which part of the island do you live in?—It is close by. I don't live there, but I work a farm there.

36501. Have you another farm?—I have a small bit from the landlord by the eleven rothes.

36502. Tell us anything that you think we should know about the state and the wants of the very small farmers here?—The greatest difficulty we have here is the removal of cattle. We must put the cattle in a small boat for want of harbour accommodation, and when we take them to Ballycastle we must sell them at whatever we can get for them. There is no use taking them back. We must breed an inferior class of cattle. We are not fit to buy feeding for what you call a good class of cattle.

36503. When the bull was here did you use the bull?—Yes.

36504. Did you find the advantage?—It was a great advantage to us, of course, but the cattle were very hard to feed.

36505. Do you attribute that to what the last witness told us about the shorthorn breed being too good for the land?—Yes. They were too good for the land.

36506. Do you think it would be better to have a more hardy breed?—It would be better.

36507. Do you keep any sheep?—I don't keep any.

36508. There are sheep kept on the island?—There are some sheep kept through the island; but I went over to the highlands to buy some sheep about a little over a year ago. I took forty head of lambs over here and lost nearly all my part of them. They were divided between four of us.

36509. How did you lose them?—They went over the cliffs.

36510. Did your neighbours who got them at the same time lose them too?—They lost part of them.

36511. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The sweet grass tempted them too far?—Yes.

36512. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—May we take it that you entirely agree with other witnesses who said that one of the great wants in the island was the feeding of the cattle for the security of the cattle?—Yes. I think so.

36513. What sort of fences would you put up?—Any fencing we have here is stone feeding, but it has been raised out of the land. In fact the majority of the land is nearly all rocks and stones.

36514. What stock do you carry on your 7½ Irish acres, with the grazing besides?—Between the 7½ acres and what I have from the landlord I keep two cows. I bought a cow across in Ballycastle when she was two years old. I paid £12 10s. for her, a shorthorn, just for a trial, and, in fact, I have her yet, but I have to feed her partly inside all the same.

36515. What do you grow for feeding her inside?—I buy in Ballycastle stuff to feed her, some linseed cake, and I grow a little grass or hay when I live.

36516. You do buy linseed cake?—Yes, when I get any money; as much as I can.

36517. Do you grow any turnips or mangolds?—I grow a little turnips.

36518. Are there many small farmers on the island like you, who grow turnips and roots, and who buy linseed, and treat the cattle in that way?—No. I don't think so, because they have an inferior class of cattle; and in fact I will soon be rid of this cow, for I could not purchase what would feed her.

36519. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You are an enterprising man and want in for a good class of cattle?—Yes.

36520. Then you found you had to go in for a good class of food?—Yes.

36521. And you found that does not pay?—It does not pay at all.

36522. How much of your land did you keep for tillage in order to house-feed your cow?—I have all of what you would call any arable land under cultivation.

36523. Do you keep half of it in tillage?—More than that.

36524. Have you always done that?—Yes.

36525. Did you increase the tillage when you went in for the good class of cattle?—No. I just laboured about the same amount. I laboured all that was worth the labour.

36526. Did you grow a good deal of cabbage for them?—I can grow no cabbage only what I grow in a garden.

36527. Do you make any butter?—Yes. We are fit to use all the butter we make.

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May 22, 1907.

Mr. John
McCurry.

35632. For yourself and your family?—Yes.
35633. What is the number of your family?—Five.

35634. How old is the eldest?—The eldest is 15, a girl.

35635. She helps on the farm?—She does.

35636. Makes the butter and hedges your wife?—Yes.

35637. And you have the milk for your family, and sell the calf?—Yes.

35638. At what age do you part with your calf?—At about a year. I cannot keep it more than a year. It would not pay me.

35639. Then you are compelled to send it over to Ballycastle for sale, and you must sell it whether the market is a good or a bad one?—Yes. If the market was bad, and I tried to keep it over there for the next monthly fair it would almost cost me the price of another calf to keep it there.

35640. If you took it over and could not get a price, the only thing you could do is sell it for what you could get or pay for keeping it grazing there until the fair comes on again?—Yes.

35641. What would that month cost you?—I could not say. I always sell rather than pay for its keep.

35642. If you did not get the price you expected, it would still be expensive to bring the animal back?—Yes.

35643. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Suppose a man takes over a boat and cannot get his price, and he therefore wishes to hold it back for the next fair, and that when the next fair comes round a gale of wind is blowing, what happens?—He just lies out. Another thing is we do hesitate to bring them over to sell, and we have leather straps which we put on the horses' pasterns. We have ropes put through naps and we hold and take the foot from the horses to get them on board. Sometimes the horse is injured, and we must get medical assistance for him when we go over before he is fit to sell. On one occasion, about two years ago, there was a man here took over a mare to sell, and in the taking of the mare over she got badly cut and injured about the forehead end, and she cost him very near the one-third of what she was worth.

35644. I see that many witnesses have referred to horses. Do they breed many horses on the island in spite of the difficulties?—Most of the people here have a mare. The majority of the people have got only one horse. It is a mare that they keep.

35645. Where is the site for the mares? This is not a stallion centre?—No. A man named Neil McCurry keeps a stallion here for the use of the people.

35646. Is that horse often changed?—It has not been changed for the last ten or eleven years. There is great difficulty in changing an animal.

35647. What puzzle me is this: the difficulties of getting horses across seem to me to be so enormous that I cannot understand many people here attempting to breed horses at all; but I suppose they must have horses here?—Yes. Most of them try to breed a foal now and again off the mare. A poor man here is not able to buy horses, but keeping up the breed encourages him to keep animals for his own use. In February we went across to Ballycastle on the moving of the last clergyman who was here. On going in there we took a sea outside, and I had to run the boat in among a lot of rocks, and we had to jump out of her at the risk of our lives. With the effects of the shore and the shallowness of the water the following sea catches the boat. She loses control of the helm, and you can do nothing except keep her straight on.

Mr. JOHN MCCURRY examined.

Mr. John
McCurry.

35648. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Are you a farmer?—Yes. I live at Cragmoregan, Rathlin. My valuation is £5, and my rent 25 £s. 4d. I live near the middle of the island.

35649. What is your acreage?—It is supposed to be five Irish Acres.

35650. Have you any grazing besides?—A little.

35651. Do you take any grazing?—No. I could not.

35652. Tell the Commission anything that you think they should know?—The most useful thing would be fencing along the rocks so that they could save their cattle. We are also in a bad way for drainage because of the way the water is on our lands.

35653. Do you do any fishing to help you to live?—Yes. If not for that I could not live at all.

35654. Do you fish, and salt the fish for the consumption of your family, or do you sell your fish?—In the winter we do try to fish with the drift net on the beach. When we get fine weather that we can cross we go over to make a sale of the fish. When we go over there we have got to take whatever we can get. Sometimes we will sell them as low as twopenny or a shilling for 150, that is ten dozen.

35655. What fish are you speaking of?—Glenas. When we put out lines on the neighbouring lake perhaps we never may lift them again. We put out lines to catch ling and cod and ground fish, and before we lift them again a trawler may come round and sweep them all away.

35656. Mr. O'KELLY.—Was any complaint ever made to the Fishery Board that these trawlers come within the three-mile limit?—I think that the last Roman Catholic clergyman applied to the Fishery Board.

35657. Do you know what the answer was?—I do not.

35658. Mr. HAYES.—That is inside the three-mile limit?—Yes; not 1½ miles out; just in the sea here. Myself and a crew were crossing over here from Ballycastle about ten o'clock at night in October, and there were two trawlers came down here with us lights, and we had to pull the boat up and lie there at their mercy whether they cut us down or not.

35659. Mr. HAYES.—They have no right to come here at all, because between here and the mainland is within the three-mile limit.

35660. Mr. O'KELLY.—How far is the nearest land from you that is supposed to look after the trawlers?—There is no boat except the coastguards.

35661. I understand that there is only one in the whole country?—Yes, only the one.

35662. How often do these trawlers come?—In quantity.

35663. Twice a week?—Sometimes there may be three or four of them, at certain seasons, in the night.

35664. Are they Scotch or Arklow fishermen?—They are nearly all Scotch and Englishmen.

35665. Are they in the waters now?—I cannot say I saw some of them going west yesterday. They cut in at night, without lights, and sweep everything before them.

35666. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—When the trawlers are cruising about at 10 o'clock at night, if they had their trawls out they were going very slowly?—Yes.

35667. Why then, were you afraid of being cut down?—You would not know what way they went when they had no lights.

35668. Were you near enough to know how far the trawls went?—Yes; they had. We saw the trawls. We had to go up nearly alongside one of them to save ourselves.

35669. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Where do you catch the cod and ling?—In the Sound.

35670. Not to the north of the island?—There is a bank to the north of the island too, six and a quarter miles to the north-west of the bull rock here.

35671. Have you ever fish in hands that you could market?—Yes; often in the winter. If we could get over to get salt for them, they would rot.

35672. Did you ever hear of the people of the island doing a trade with passing steamers by supplying them with requisites such as butter or eggs?—No, I never did.

35673. Is your land wet land?—Part of it.

35674. Is there any outfall?—There is no outfall.

35675. Have you any difficulty in draining it yourself?—Yes. I drain some of it myself, but there must be some kind of a seepage to carry it away. When it comes on wet weather it lies a long time and then destroys the best part of the crop. The only good ground I have would not be easily drained. The water has no roads to our houses.

35676. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—How far are you from a public road?—About a half mile.

35677. You cannot get a cart to your house?—I can in a kind of a way.

36568. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Do you keep a horse?—Yes. It is not very easy keeping one for all you have for him.

36569. What stock do you keep on your five-acre farm?—I just keep a cow and a horse. I cannot keep anything more.

36570. How long can you keep the calf?—Sometimes just a year; sometimes two.

36571. You do keep it on for two years?—If I can manage it.

36572. When your first calf is two years old you have another calf?—Sometimes we have. At other times we have not. Sometimes you have a year or two before you have a calf. The place is too poor. You have not a place to keep a beast, and then they are not in condition; and that helps them not to have calves.

36573. You have got a horse, and a cow, and a yearling, or sometimes a two-year-old, but you never have more than three beasts besides the horse, because you could not keep them?—Yes.

36574. Mr. BAKER.—What crops do you grow?—Corn, barley, potatoes, and some beans.

36575. But you do grow beans?—Yes, in some places, but it is not much of a crop.

36576. What do you do with the corn?—We use it ourselves.

36577. Do you make any butter?—Yes; a little.

36578. Do you use that yourself?—Yes. It is the only thing we have to live on.

36579. Speaking generally, there is not much gain on potatoes sold out of Ireland?—Very little. The potatoes last year failed.

36580. The people don't sell?—They don't sell. They had not half enough seed to go into the ground. The blight was on them last summer, and now the majority of the people have the half of their ground waste for the want of proper seed to put in it.

36581. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Do you engage in fishing?—Yes.

36582. Which is the principal industry for you—fishing or farming?—Fishing would be the best if we had any way of working of it. We fish with lines, and try everything we can make money at in the fine weather, but in the winter time we are not fit to keep a boat to go to fish in, and we are hampered for want of a curing station to cure the fish so as to keep them.

36583. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What kind of a boat do you fish in?—A small boat. I fish round the rocks for lobsters and crabs, and everything I can in the summer season, and try to make a living for myself in the winter.

36584. Mr. BAKER.—Are there many lobster pots around here?—A good few.

36585. Where do you sell your lobsters?—In Manchester and London. We have to take them to Ballycastle. Many a time they are dead, and maybe we miss the train, and if they lie there dead a whole week or fortnight's work may be lost.

36586. Why should you miss the train?—It is according to the weather. Bad weather might come on before we are across. Many a time it takes two or three hours going across.

36587. Mr. O'KEEFE.—It took the mail boat three hours yesterday?—Yes.

36588. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—When you catch lobsters you keep them in a freezing box?—Yes.

36589. Until you get a full supply?—Yes.

36590. Then you take them over to Ballycastle?—Yes. Then you have to put lines out to get bait, and they are swept away with the trowels.

36591. Surely the place where you catch crabs and lobsters has a rocky bottom, and no man will put a trawl down on a rocky bottom?—I mean the long line.

36592. Mr. O'KEEFE.—How far out would the line go?—You have to go out to the banks and set them. They have marks there.

36593. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Are there any shops on the island?—Small grocers' shops that keep little groceries.

36594. Are there more than one?—There are two or three.

36595. Do you make your own bread?—We have to make our own bread.

36596. Altogether?—When the mail boats cross they take bread from the mainland.

36597. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You are nothing the worse for making your own bread?—I don't think so.

36598. Do you make bread out of oats, or do you buy flour?—We have to buy flour or whatever we are fit to purchase.

36599. What do you pay for your loaf?—2s., or 2s. 6d. a lb.

36600. Can you make the fences yourselves?—In some places we could. Along the rocks we could not.

36601. Why?—There is an amount of stone, but there is no way of getting the stone along the rocks to save the cattle from going over. They were lost repeatedly backwards and forwards.

36602. Could not the stone be carried up them?—No.

36603. How would you propose to make fences?—I think the best fences would be wire fences. I see in Scotland, in the Highlands, it is all wire fencing they have for protection around the farms.

36604. That is between one farm and another, but do you think it would be sufficient to protect cattle from going over the cliffs?—It would be better than nothing.

36605. Here and there it would be difficult to erect stone fences?—Yes.

36606. Is there any mackerel fishing?—It is the best mackerel fishing in the Three Kingdoms. For the last five or six years this place around the island is living with mackerel.

36607. Are you aware that on the southern coast the mackerel fishing is a great source of wealth?—There is no place in the world with more mackerel than around here.

36608. What do you do with the mackerel when you catch them?—You have to take them over to sell them to the best advantage.

36609. It is a delicate fish, and requires special treatment?—Yes. If they are a day old they are no use. There is an amount of herring too always in the bay.

36610. Has anybody represented to the Department that there is a good supply of mackerel in these waters?—I don't think so.

36611. Is not it a pity?—It is a pity.

36612. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Have you been in Scotland more than once?—I went there to fish one time.

36613. Were you fishing in a Scotch boat?—No; we went in our own boat. That is four or five years ago.

36614. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You say that you have experience of the Scotch as well as of the Irish fishing?—Yes. It was no use. It was a failure. There was no fish in the place we went to when we went there.

36615. Was the Scotch boats there then?—No; they were all away.

36616. They were following the fish, and you were a day after the fish?—Yes. We went on speculation. It is harder there than here, for you have nothing to do but put your boats alongside the piers. It was over at the Mull of Cantyre there. Even on Sanda Island where there is only one small holder, he has a harbour, and can take in a boat 100 tons. He has a good boat slip, and all that.

36617. Mr. BAKER.—What size was the boat in which you went across to Scotland?—84 feet by 5 feet beam.

36618. Not with no deck?—Yes.

36619. That was over at the Mull of Cantyre?—Yes.

36620. Was it at the other side of the Mull?—No; this side of the Mull.

36621. Just round the Mull?—Yes.

36622. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Did you hear the evidence given here to-day by several witnesses about the want of harbour accommodation on the island and at Ballycastle?—Yes.

36623. Would not it occur to you, as a man of sense, that the very best way to get a public Department to give the necessary funds for providing this accommodation would be to put them in possession of the fact that a big mackerel fishing is possible in these waters?—That is so.

36624. Then should not an effort be made without much delay to convince the public that the mackerel are here, because, undoubtedly, there could not be a better way of inducing public subscription to give money for the construction of piers?

36625. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—At what season of the year are the herrings here?—They will be here from this on until about September or so. Many a time all the winter they would be in the bays here.

36626. Are they here in November?—They are.

36627. When do the mackerel come in?—From this on mostly. They are here nearly all the winter.

36628. Do Scotch boats, or boats from Ardglass or

May 22, 1907.

Mr. John
McCarthy

May 22, 1887.

Mr. John
McCarthy.

anywhere else, come here after the herring or mackerel?—No. There is no place for protection here. I heard the Scotch fishermen say that there ought to be good fishing here if they had shelter.

35628. Therefore, the Commission is to take your evidence in this way: that there is no doubt about the mackerel and the herrings being here, but the fish escape without being fished, because there is no accommodation for fishing boats to get alongside the shore?—That is right. If there was a storm, or the like of that, they would have to run away to Larne, or some place like that.

35629. Suppose the accommodation was made there, from what you say it appears that the Scotchmen would come over here to fish?—I am sure they would.

MR. JAMES GLASS EXAMINED.

Mr. James
Glass.

35633. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—You live at Kincarron, Rathlin Island?—Yes.

35634. Are you a farmer?—Yes. My valuation is £3, my rent £3, and I have ten Irish acres.

35635. Tell me anything that you think we should hear?—Fencing is what we most require. I have lost during the last six years three mares, as well as sheep and cows.

35636. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What would be the length of your farm that fronts the sea?—I could hardly say. My grazing comes down to the sea. It is the west end of the island.

35637. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—How many perches of fencing would you have to put up in order to protect your property?—There could be no fencing done on most of it, unless wire fencing.

35638. Would it take a quarter of a mile of wire fencing to protect the cattle from going over?—About a quarter of a mile.

35639. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—It would be more difficult to erect stone fences than wire fences?—Yes. There could hardly be stone fences. You could not get carts to cart the stones.

35640. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—It would cost a great deal of money to fence every holding from the cliffs. Suppose that a certain amount of money was given for the island, would you have it spent on fencing or on the pier at Ballycastle?—That is a question.

35641. I suppose what you would like is that some authority should fence your farms and then go on to improve the pier at Ballycastle?—We would need both to live.

35642. You agree with other witnesses, that it is extremely urgent and important to have the pier at Ballycastle improved, and to have proper accommodation at Rathlin?—Yes.

35643. Do you fish yourself?—Yes.

35644. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you agree with the last witness, that the waters are pretty rich in mackerel?—Yes. They have been very plentiful for the last four or five years.

35645. Have you seen the herrings?—I have.

35646. Neither mackerel nor herrings are caught in great abundance at present?—No. We have no way here of catching them.

35647. You have not the nets?—No.

35648. Until the pier accommodation is improved it would not be expedient to go in for nets?—It would not.

35649. Is there anything else that you wish to state?—No; except that the house is too small for my big family.

35650. Are they two-roomed houses?—No; only one room.

35651. How many have you in family?—There are eleven of us there.

35652. Eleven in one room?—Yes.

35653. Is there any cow-house?—A kind of a one.

35654. What stock do you keep?—Two cows and one horse.

35655. When have you to sell the calf?—When a year old.

35656. Do you ever keep it longer?—No. We are not able to feed it.

35657. It must go then?—Yes.

35658. Do you ever take any grazing on the grazing land?—No; I am not fit to pay for grazing.

35659. How much of your land do you keep in tillage—half of it?—Yes. I keep more.

35660. Do you grow cabbage in your garden?—Very little.

35631. How could you compete against them?—We would have to get assistance in some way or another. But those men are going round fishing from place to place, and I suppose that they would fish here as well as there.

35632. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You would take your chance?—Yes; we would have to do it. If we had proper accommodation we could go to other places too. We would need Ballycastle to help us too. We cannot go to Ballycastle with the wall there. Nobody can see you going in. Even a man might be drowned at the back of a rock. That is what has left the boats broken. There were two boats broken going in, and I was in one of those boats.

35661. Do you grow roots of any sort?—Nothing but potatoes, corn and barley.

35662. Then the winter feeding for your stock is only hay?—Yes. I am fit to get nothing else for it.

35663. Have you milk during the winter for your children?—Yes.

35664. Do you not use oatmeal porridge in the island?—Yes; while they have it of their own.

35665. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—How old is your eldest child?—Eighteen.

35666. In service or living with you?—Living with me.

35667. As a rule, do the people get money from the children who go away to work on the mainland?—Yes, they do; a lot of them.

35668. Do you think that there is a good deal of money coming into the island, sent to their fathers and mothers by young men and women, who have gone away to work in other places, or do you think that the people have to live on what they get on the island?—Yes. The most of them have to live on what is here.

35669. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Take your own case. What proportion would the fish make in your little income year by year?—You could hardly say. We have not a very good market.

35670. You could not well get on without the fish?—No; I could not get on at all.

35671. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—I suppose you were catching not only of the fish you sell but of the fish you eat for winter food?—Yes. That helps to keep us long in winter.

35672. I suppose your main reliance for food in winter is really upon the salted fish?—It really is.

35673. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What kind of a crop of potatoes had you last year?—Very middling.

35674. Did you spray?—There is no spraying here.

35675. Was the spraying ever done in the island?—Never.

35676. No one ever came here to show the people how to spray?—No.

35677. Is the island much subject to blight?—Yes. It was very bad last year.

35678. Taking it from year to year, do you think that it is more subject to blight than the mainland opposite?—I don't know that. They spray them in the mainland. I suppose that if it was done here it would do good.

35679. More than one of the clergymen who give evidence spoke of an island committee to look after affairs. Do you think such a committee would be able to encourage spraying?—I think it would.

35680. Mr. BARRE.—Were you a farmer in the place when Mr. Gage lived here?—No, I was not. My father was, but I was working about the place.

35681. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—Recalling the time when you were a young man, and looking at things generally, do you think that the island is worse off since his death than before it?—It is a great deal.

35682. You think his disappearance, through death, indicated an injury upon the place?—Yes.

35683. Do you think if some authority or some body were put in a position to help to guide the people that it would be better for the island of Rathlin?—Yes. I am sure it would.

35684. But you are deeply of opinion that Mr. Gage's death was a loss to the people of Rathlin?—Yes, it was indeed.

35685. Did you ever hear of his banishing poor men who did not behave themselves?—That was before my time.

Mr. WILLIAM WILLIAMS examined.

May 12, 1907.

Mr. William Williams.

35586. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—You live on the island?—Yes, for the last fifty-four years.

35587. Do you farm any land?—Yes. I have a small place on the eleven months' system, and I have a kind of living off it—that is all.

35588. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Besides the land that you have on the eleven months' system have you any other farm?—No, nothing, except whatever cattle I have grazed with Mr. Kerr.

35589. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—Have you got a house and garden?—Yes.

35590. Your farming is really cattle-farming on the eleven months' system?—That is right.

35591. Suppose all the grass land was divided up among tenants, and there was no eleven months' system, what would happen to you?—I suppose I would have to give some of it and work much less cattle.

35592. What land have you got?—Seven acres.

35593. Mr. O'KELLY.—What is your valuation?—I could not say; I pay £7 10s. 3d. for the seven acres.

35594. Where is it?—In the centre of the bay where you landed.

35595. Does this taking land by the eleven months' system and grazing cattle pay you?—It does not.

35596. You take it for pleasure and not for profit?—I am a grandfather and must consider my grandchildren.

35597. You say you take land every year on the eleven months' system, and grade cattle, and I ask does it pay you and you say not; if that is so, then you take it for amusement?—It does not pay me to keep the lot of land, and if I had no other way of living I might be over in the workhouse in Ballycastle, and you and everyone else would be paying for me there. The land is too dear on the island altogether.

35598. Have you gone into the Land Court?—No. I could not go into the Land Court because the land is under the eleven months' system. The seven acres is all I have.

35599. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you till any of this seven acres?—I till the whole of it.

35600. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—You pay your rent to a farmer?—To Mr. Gage's agent, and then I get grazing from Mr. Kerr here.

35601. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You till the seven acres, and your stock goes to Mr. Kerr's land?—Yes.

35602. Mr. BRYCE.—How much stock have you?—Two cows, three yearlings, and one old horse.

35603. You have no pasture in the seven acres—that is all tillage?—I have no pasture whatever.

35604. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—What do you grow?—Potatoes, turneps, beans, and oats.

35605. You house-feed your cattle?—In the winter time I have to do it.

35606. You, like everybody else, suffer from the want of communication and proper harbours on both sides?—That is what we want most. There is no man on the island more interested in harbours than what I should be. I have a commission from the Post Office and from the Lights Board for running a boat twice a week to Ballycastle. We are badly off enough here, but in Ballycastle it is a great deal worse. It is ridiculous.

35607. You think that things are worse in Ballycastle?—Ten times. One winter we lost £40 worth of boats in it.

35608. You have a contract from the Post Office?—Yes, and from the Ballast Office in Dublin.

35609. Do you contract for anything else?—That is all.

35610. You heard the last two witnesses saying how great was the quantity of fish in the waters here, and that there are great quantities of herring and mackerel here—do you agree with that?—Of course they are telling the truth there. There is no one to pick them up.

35611. You have heard the evidence of the different witnesses here—do you agree with it?—I agree with it. I don't think any man speaks a word here that was not quite correct.

35612. You were here when the late Mr. Gage was alive?—I was.

35613. You heard two or three witnesses, especially Father Lavery, saying that his management and his

sympathetic treatment of the people had good results?—It had, as far as ever I could see.

35614. Do you think that the disappearance of that sort of management and control was a loss to the island?—It was in one way; in another, there were other laws and regulations here in my time. I think the people are not much better now than they were in Mr. Gage's time.

35615. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What do you mean by laws and regulations?—He was a very energetic man himself, and he knew the people well. The older men were more easily controlled than what the young men are now. There is a change in life.

35616. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—Comparing the time of Mr. Gage's superintendence and control with the present, do you think that the island has gone back, and is worse off now than then?—Apparently it is. When you hear everyone's story surely you must believe it.

35617. Mr. O'KELLY.—Do you hold your seven acres on the same conditions as the other tenants?—Yes; on the eleven months' system.

35618. Do you pay your rent at the same time as the others?—Yes; to the same agent.

35619. When are the rents paid?—Yearly; some time before Christmas.

35620. How many years are you in this holding?—Sixteen years.

35621. Was the house built when you went there?—There is no house on the farm, but I got a house from the agent down at the landing place. The seven acres are not very far away—just as you came up that laneway from the landing.

35622. What do you mean by saying you hold under the eleven months' system?—All this land of Mr. Gage's was occupied by his farm. All his men got a share of it. I was his land steward, and when he died I got a piece from his brother, General Gage. Everyone got a little. Mr. Gage died very suddenly.

35623. How do you make out that it is under the eleven months' system?—Because there was an agreement signed. The agreement was for eleven months.

35624. Are your clock turned out every year in order that the eleven months' agreement may not be violated?—What good would that do? Another person would take it if I did not.

35625. Mr. BRYCE.—Did you come to the island, or were you born here?—I was not born here, and I hope I will not die here.

35626. Did you come from Wales?—I came here when I was fifteen years of age with my father. I came from the land of Wales.

35627. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—There is one point in which you seem to differ from the general evidence. You do not seem to be quite of opinion that this land has gone backwards?—I don't think it is going back. It is keeping in a middling way. It was far worse when I came here first. In 1858 was not all Ireland worse than what it is now? But at the present time the people are hard pressed. This has been a bad season.

35628. When you say that, you have 1852 and the years immediately succeeding the Famine a good deal before your mind?—Yes.

35629. At present do you think many of the tenants are in arrears?—No; I don't think so. For my own part I could not say what arrears are in it, but I think they were further back in those days. I knew myself that Mr. Gage paid the passage of a lot of emigrants going to America. In the year 1853 I saw 110 leave that bay in one day.

35630. Were these the people of whom there was no account afterwards?—There was word from them. I suppose some of them may be living yet. I believe that fifty more also went in that same year.

35631. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—Were you here when Griffith's valuation was made out and the inspectors came over to the island?—I remember some valuers here, but I was only a grown-up young man and I took no interest.

35632. Can you remember was that in very prosperous times?—Times were improving. That would be about 1855 or 1856 as far as I can recollect.

35633. Go back twenty-five years. Were the people as well-dressed then as they are now?—The clothing

May 22, 1907.
Mr. William
Williams.

was far more beneficial than what it is in the present day. In my time there were shoemakers and tailors on the island. Every man grew a little flax and spun it at home, and spun it at home, and wove it. In every house you would find a weaver. There was very little money in circulation in those days, but there were no expenses and no running out of the country for anything.

36734. Was the fishing in those days what it is now?—It was ten times better than what it is now. They were living upon fishing.

36735. Were there more fish or did the people fish more?—They were all holders of small lots of ground at that time, and the general run of them occupied their entire time in fishing; but the fish were more plentiful, whatever the reason.

36736. In those days there was a much larger population on the island than now?—Far and away.

36737. Did people go about with bare feet then?—Some of them. These old men did. I saw them coming to their house of worship here and they could not travel from their homes with their shoes on.

36738. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I suppose that occurs still—that people come to worship on Sunday along the road barefooted?—I think not.

36739. Does it occur in some part of the country?—I don't think they do that now.

36740. Sir JOHN CONDON.—What did the people live

on in those days?—There was no such thing as tea in those days.

36741. May I take it that in your opinion the standard of comfort and the necessities of the people have extended and improved, and people would not now live as their fathers did twenty years ago?—I believe they were as good men then as what they are now.

36742. I think so, as an old man, too. But what I mean is: do you suppose that the present generation, with modern ideas, would at all be contented to go back to the conditions under which their fathers and mothers lived?—I am sure they would not. They would leave the island very fast before doing that.

36743. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Considering the loss that the people have sustained by their cattle going over the cliffs and by the want of drainage, it would be no wonder that some of the people on the island are ten years arrears, and that almost all the people on the island at this moment are heavily in arrears with their rent?—I have no doubt about that.

36744. Is not that a natural consequence of the causes to which you have made reference, the loss they incurred and the general depreciation of agriculture in the island, and the drying-up of what was hitherto a good source of revenue—the fishing industry?—It is quite true.

The Commission adjourned.

SEVENTY-FOURTH PUBLIC SITTING.

THURSDAY, MAY 23RD, 1907,

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.,

In the Reading Room, Cusheadall, County Antrim.

Present:—The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLOM, K.C.M.G.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; COSBOR O'KEELY, Esq., M.P.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. CHARLES M'CONNELL examined.

36745. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT (in the Chair).—Have you prepared any statement you would like to put in?

—No, I am just here to answer any questions.
36746. I will ask you to favour the Commission with any statement or evidence which you desire to submit to them, and we will ask you such questions as the statements suggest to us as you go along. Perhaps you will first mention the particular subjects upon which you wish to make a statement?—I am a member of the County Council for this division, and a member of the County Committee of Agriculture.

36747. Then, you appear for the County Council?—Yes, and the County Committee of Agriculture also. We only strike a halfpenny in the £ rate for agricultural purposes, and of course we get our equivalent to that from the Department. We are not able to do as much as we should like for the district. Anything the County Committee did here for the improvement of live stock was on the lines principally adopted in the Computed Districts Board's area. For instance, to improve the breed of horses we had a good sire imported, and we also introduced bulls into the district.

36748. Do you mean Cusheadall?—Yes. They were given on the loan principle to the farmers at less than cost price. They were purchased by the Department and placed here by the County Committee on the loan system, with two or three years to pay back the price. That, of course, was a special scheme for this district, and it did not prevail in any other part of the county.

36749. Mr. O'KEELY.—What action is Cusheadall in?—In Ballynagar.

36750. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What you refer to about the improvement of live stock has gone on for some time?—Since 1902, the year the Department came into existence.

36751. As a matter of experience has it improved the breed of cattle?—In my opinion it has, and if it were further carried out it would be a still further improvement. The County Committee did as much as they could, and they were anxious to do all they possibly could for this district, keeping in view the amount of money at their disposal. A poultry station was established at Cusheadall this year. I think if we were able to do something to encourage farmers to keep a better breed of sheep on the lines of the Computed Districts Board's system of payment it would be a good thing for the district. Nothing has been done in that direction, because we have not the funds at our disposal.

36752. The County Council has not done anything in that direction?—Not yet, because we have not sufficient funds.

36753. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You seem to suggest a supplemental scheme would be required in addition to what the County Committee can provide?—I think that would be a very good idea. This being a sheep-rearing district, if something was done in that way it would be very beneficial.

36754. If the Department could make funds available for a district like this would the County Committee be able to make much use of the grant?—Yes; they would be very glad to get the assistance. It would be very well managed.

36755. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—This is not a congested district?—In my opinion it is.

36756. Is it scheduled?—No, but I think you will have sufficient evidence to show that it ought to be scheduled.

36757. What class of farmers have you in the district?—The farmers here are very small. They are not able to make a decent living without having to call in outside assistance. The younger boys have to go to sea, or to America and Australia, and send home money to their parents, which helps to pay the rent.

36758. Are you going to speak of boys going to sea presently?—You will have evidence on that point from local witnesses.

36759. When you say that some lads go to sea do you mean that they go coast fishing?—They go to sea on the steamers, and go to Glasgow and other places for employment, because there is no facilities for fishing in this district. I think if there was pier accommodation here these boys would find employment at home. At Cusheadall here there is no accommodation, and at Cusheadall, where, at one time, there were a great many men employed at fishing, the harbour has been filled up so that it is utterly impossible for boats to go out or come in.

36760. There is no local fishing population here now?—There is no accommodation for them.

36761. As a matter of fact there is none?—Not much, but it would be very much more if they had any accommodation. The County Council's hands are tied so far as providing accommodation is concerned. We cannot make a larger grant than £300 for the improvement of any harbour or pier. A few months ago a grant was made to Rathlin of £300, and that would prevent anything being done here for some time to come. There is no doubt, when anything is done for Rathlin we will have applications to provide harbour accommodation for Cusheadall, Ballynagar, and Cusheadall, and that is more than we will be able to deal with.

36762. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do the boats from Scotland, or from other parts of Ireland fish this coast?—They cannot come close to it, but I would prefer you should have evidence from local men on that point. Another point I should like to mention is the continuation of the railway from Parkmore to Cusheadall. That, if carried out would be a most important matter for the district.

36763. Mr. BRYCE.—That is about six miles of railway extension you would like to see carried out?—Yes. The railway stops at Parkmore. If it came from that point to Cusheadall it would be a great advantage to the district of Cusheadall and the surrounding districts.

36764. Then, why don't the railway company continue the line? The line belongs to the Midland Company, and if it be a good thing to continue it to Cusheadall why does the company not continue it?—I know it would be a good thing, not alone for the district but for the county, because half the traffic is on the county road from Parkmore to Waterfoot, a little past from which the iron ore is shipped. I may tell you, gentlemen, that the expenditure on this road is very excessive. It costs the county £250 or £300 a year in excess of the ordinary upkeep, and this is on account of the iron ore traffic. If a proposal were

May 24, 1907.

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Mr. Charles M'Connell.

May 20, 1907.

Mr. Charles
McConnell.

brought forward to continue the railway, I think the county would be justified in guaranteeing the promoters.

36766. Mr. O'Kearney.—The whole county would be interested in it. It is a bold county charge. It would supply the wants of the entire district in the matter of traffic facilities, and would be of immense value to this district. I think the county would not be opposed to a guarantee.

36766. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You think there would be traffic enough to justify the guarantee?—Yes. The tourist and iron ore traffic could be developed. It would also be the means of a market being established here. The people of Cusheadall are greatly handicapped for want of a market. They have a little market but there is no competition, and very few buyers come here. In the winter season the roads sometimes are impassable, and the people therefore are at the mercy of those who come here to buy their produce. If the railway were continued undoubtedly the market would spring up here.

36767. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have you approached the railway company and asked them to continue the line to Cusheadall?—No.

36768. Neither the Northern Counties Company, nor the Midland—I think there was a memorial presented to the Midland Company lately, but I don't know what reply they got.

36769. It would be interesting to know if, on any definite condition they were willing to continue the line. Can you enlighten us on the matter?—I am not able to say anything on the point. This I do know, that the market will certainly follow the railway, and that might lead on to the establishment of industries in the district. For instance, a woollen industry would be very important for the district if it were established.

36770. Are there large numbers of sheep on the Antrim mountains about Cusheadall?—Yes.

36771. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do they send the wool?—To Glasgow and Belfast. There is not so much in that point, but if the wool could be manufactured in the district it would give local employment.

36772. Mr. BAYNE.—How many hands does the Iron Ore Company employ between Carragh and Parkmore and the country side?—I was speaking to the manager at Glenties this morning, and he says there are seventy or seventy-five men in his mine.

36773. But there must be some others?—I dare say there would be twice that number in the other mines.

36774. There is a great deal of employment in the way of cartage?—There had been until the engine was put on the road. The engine has taken away the employment from the farmers, and cuts up the road, for which the farmers have to pay.

36775. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What engine do you mean?—The traction engine. Unfortunately the County Council have no control over it, and the farmers must pay for keeping the road in order.

36776. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would you say the companies in the Glens of Antrim have as a rule some sheep?—Yes—a good many sheep.

36777. What would be the valuation on the average of the holdings in the Glens?—I think you will have evidence on that point from local witnesses.

36778. Mr. BAYNE.—There is an industry at Carragh?—Yes, a lime industry.

36779. And also an industry for chemical products?—That is not developed yet, and it is very doubtful.

36780. Are there any other industries at all?—Carragh is outside this district. It is twelve miles from here, I suppose. There is no industry here except the iron ore industry. The mines are seven or eight miles from here.

36781. Is there any industry amongst the women such as embroidery or lace-making?—No.

36782. Has the Agricultural Department done anything in that way?—We have done very little in the technical end of our scheme.

36783. With regard to the live stock scheme, you said sties and bulls were supplied to this district, and were not in the County Antrim. Is that because the circumstances of the district were considered to be so poor as to need special treatment?—Yes. We thought pony sties and Galloway bulls were the best for this district.

36784. You told us the terms on which these sties were given, and that they would not be given on the same terms to other parts of the county?—No. They are practically free.

36785. Because the circumstances of the district were supposed to be so poor? When you say you thought this scheme had been an advantage, do you mean that the produce of these sties and bulls will be better?—Yes, and I think it is a pity that the scheme could not be further developed. Of course the County Committee could not afford to do anything more in that direction without assistance from an outside body.

36786. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You said there was no technical class in the scheme of the County Committee?—Very little. Last year we appointed a manual instructor, and we annually set aside a very small sum for that purpose.

36787. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—In what does it give instruction?—Carpentry and handy manual work. He will go to the districts that make application for his services.

36788. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is there any instruction in domestic science?—Yes.

36789. Would such instruction be useful to a district like this?—I think it would. We have an instructor who delivers lectures, but she has not got so far as this district yet.

36790. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Comparing this district of Ballycastle Union with other unions in Antrim, do you consider it exceptionally poor?—This part of the union is poorer than the other unions. Some parts of Ballycastle Union are about the best in the county.

36791. You speak of Cusheadall as being a specially poor electoral division?—Yes, from Cusheadall to Garraunpoint.

36792. I see that 66 per cent. of the holdings in this union, and even in Cusheadall they are over £12. You speak of young people leaving the country, and you say the young men go to sea. Do you think that a great disadvantage?—I think it would be better if they were employed at home.

36793. Do these young men who go to sea really leave the place and pursue a maritime occupation, or do they come and go?—They finally leave the place altogether.

36794. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—And become seafaring men?—Yes.

36795. Sir JOHN COLSON.—With regard to the young women, do they leave also?—Yes, they go to America.

36796. Would you say that the majority of the young women go to England or America to domestic service?—I think most of them go to America. Some of them go to service in other districts. If there was employment for them here they would remain at home. In Ballymena we have several industries of the young women of the district find employment at home.

36797. Does not the demand of Belfast for domestic servants draw a good many young women from here?—Yes, but the young women born and bred in the Glens look upon Belfast as being as strange a land as America.

36798. Does not Belfast in itself attract the young women to seek better conditions of living than they find in the Glens?—I think very few of them go to Belfast. They prefer to go to America.

36799. Do you think the young women go more to America than to Scotland?—I do.

36800. But the young men apparently take to seafaring rather than go to America?—Yes.

36801. There is rather a difference between Irish and male emigration?—There is.

36802. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are the first witness we have heard who thought it a misfortune that the young men of a sea coast district should take to seafaring. What objection do you feel to that?—I don't feel any objection, but a number of them have told me that if there were any facilities for fishing that they could earn more at home.

36803. As far as I know it is a common practice for sea coast populations throughout Europe to take to seafaring. It is not a misfortune, surely?—In my opinion it would be much better if they could find employment at home. They are inclined to stay at home, and it would be much better for themselves and for the district if they could remain here.

36804. Sir JOHN COLMAN.—I see there is a large proportion of the holdings here valued at £20. Do these people keep sheep in their small holdings?—You will get a more correct answer to that question from some of the local witnesses. I am not sufficiently informed to give you the number they keep.

36805. My reason for asking you was that you had emphasized on the importance of improving the breed of sheep, which is undoubtedly important. Was it in your mind that that was for the benefit of the small holders or the more considerable holders?—The small holders, of course, because the large sheep holders can provide whatever class of sheep they like.

36806. Your general opinion is that the County Council recognizes that the circumstances of this particular district require special aid?—Undoubtedly.

36807. But they are restricted in carrying out their principle by limitation upon the application of their funds?—Yes.

36808. May I take it from you as a member of the County Council that if the Agricultural Department had power to help more largely the very poor districts, that the County Council would respond by allocating out of its increased funds special grants, and making special arrangements for the development of the poorer districts?—The County Council would be delighted to do so.

36809. Mr. BRYAN.—By that you mean that the general body of the ratepayers of the county would be agreeable that the poorer parts of the county should receive larger sums in proportion than the districts in which they themselves reside and for which they pay rates?—Yes.

36810. They would in fact be patriotic in the matter?—Quite so.

36811. Mr. O'KEEFE.—This is the poorest union in the County Antrim—taking the union as a whole?—I cannot answer that question.

36812. On what other data do you rely?—The land is very poor, and it is very difficult to get at. I may also tell you that I have met farmers the day previous to a market going to Ballymena with their pork. In the winter time they have to leave by moonlight, and it takes them a day to go and a day in the market.

36813. Are they engaged in any other industry besides farming?—There is no other industry for them.

36814. In this part of the district I notice there are about 35 per cent. of the holdings under £20 valuation?—I suppose that is correct.

36815. But in the union I think there is 31 per cent. Would that justify the scheduling of this electoral division?—Yes, if you take into account the value of the land.

36816. Is this union better off than Ballymena

Union?—I think not. This district seems very much worse.

36817. I know that in Ballymena 30 per cent. are under £10 valuation, whereas in Ballycastle Union under 31 are under £10 valuation?—We have lots of industries in Ballymena district.

36818. You speak of manual instruction. When did you commence manual instruction in the county?—About two years ago.

36819. How much does that experiment cost annually?—I think we pay the man about £100 a year and expenses.

36820. How long does he stay in one centre?—Six or eight weeks.

36821. What particular results are reaped consequent upon his tuition of the labourers?—We have not had any official report yet, because the work is in its infancy. The classes are generally held in the winter time, and they are fairly well attended.

36822. Would it be right to say that manual instruction means teaching the men to become handy, say, about their farms?—Yes, some of them may turn out to be very good tradesmen. It is very useful to teach the boys to do something about farms and houses that they otherwise would not know how to do.

36823. Are these classes attended by country boys or boys from the towns?—I think in the towns the attendance would be larger. For instance, in Ballymena, where there is a technical school, the instructor would not go there.

36824. Does the instructor propose to go any further than to lay the foundation of a trade?—That is all he does.

36825. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—There seems to be a twofold purpose. For those who go to a trade it is a mere beginning, but for the majority it has the effect of enabling young farmers to make good use of the knowledge they obtain in doing some work without going to a carpenter?—Yes. In the winter time the young men employed upon farms can do a lot of work which if they had not received instruction they would have to pay men to do.

36826. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is there anything else you would like to tell us about?—My principal points are—(1) The continuation of the railway to Cushendall, (2) the establishment of local industries, (3) the providing of harbours and piers for fishing accommodation, which work, as I have already said, would be the means of keeping the young men of the district at home.

36827. You don't tell us of any local industry you have in your mind?—I think a woollen industry would be the surest industry to start.

MR. ALEXANDER BLACK EXAMINED.

36828. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you represent the County Committee of Agriculture?—No, I am Chairman of the Rural District Council.

36829. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What is the name of the rural district?—Ballymena. I have been acquainted with the district of Cushendall and Cush-leak from childhood, and also the conditions under which the farmers do out an existence while earning the rents of their holdings. I do not mean to suggest that there are too many people on the land, but I do say that the poverty of these districts is owing to the fact that on a very large majority of the holdings there is no economic rent at all. This state of affairs is due to three causes:—1st, the judicial rents are too high; 2nd, the difficulty of cultivating the land owing to the height of the mountain sides, where no up-to-date tools can be used, the work having to be done with the spade, and consequently more people are required to till the land; and 3rd, the difficulties of marketing the produce of the farms owing to the long distances from the districts to which I have referred to a market town, on account of bad roads and lack of railway accommodation.

36830. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When you refer to the question of economic rents do you mean the land is not economic?—If the farmers were not able to work their farms without having to pay for outside labour there would not be sufficient left for the landlord. The members of the family work for nothing, and occasionally one of them goes to America and supplements the earnings of those at home by sending money to them.

36831. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The emigration from this part of Ireland is not so great as from many of the western counties?—I don't think it is. There are more people required to do the work on the land. It is much more difficult to cultivate the land here owing to the steep mountain sides. You cannot use up-to-date tools such as you could use in other places. It is very hilly land.

36832. You are speaking of agriculture, of course?—Yes, of agricultural land.

36833. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You seem to convey that the complete remain as tenants—that they have not bought out their holdings?—No.

36834. Has there been much purchasing in the district?—Very little, and I think that is a very good thing for the district, because I believe if they bought out at the present rents some one would come to grief—probably the ratepayers, because I am convinced that they could not pay the money.

36835. Are they second or first term rents?—The majority are second term rents.

36836. Then you think they are too high to be a basis of purchase?—Yes.

36837. Unless the number of years purchase was small?—I think it would be better to make out the purchase on a proper system, because it seems to me it would look like a grievance, so far as the landlord is concerned, if he had to sell for a small number of years purchase while in other parts they were getting a long number of years purchase. There is no man knows the value of his land less than the landlord. He has no other guide than the rents. I believe that

May 25, 1907.

Mr. Charles
McConnell.

Mr. Alexander
Black.

May 23, 1907. if the landlord knew that his rent was too high he would be satisfied to do what is fair.

Mr. Alexander Black. 36838. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are now speaking of landlords in general?—Yes.

36839. The resident landlord on the spot can appreciate and understand the working of the land as well as anyone else?—In a great many cases he does not know anything about it. He does not know the class of approaches there are to his farms, because he has never been on them.

36840. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Are you not aware that there are many landlords in the country who, although resident on their property, have not seen the major portion of their holdings?—That is my opinion.

36841. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—I understand you to convey that the difficulty arose because the owner was not resident?—Yes. In cases where some of them are resident they do not go round and inspect the farms at all.

36842. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say the judicial rents are too high?—Yes.

36843. Is there any accidental circumstance that led to their being fixed too high as compared with rents in other parts of the country?—My case is that the fixing of the rents in these poor districts would require special treatment by the Land Commissioners. The Land Commissioners have a rule for the whole country which they apply here. In the mountain sides here, although the land is bad, you will find some very good land in spots.

36844. Then you will say that the Land Commissioners came here and did not understand their business?—They did not take into consideration the difficulty of cultivating the land. The Commissioners go exactly on the value of the land, and do not take into consideration the trouble there is in getting that land cultivated.

36845. Do you mean that that is an opinion of your own, or is it a general opinion here?—It is the general opinion of the district. I cannot say whether it is right or wrong.

36846. Do you mean that whilst the Commissioner is desirous of giving weight to the local circumstances he, as a rule, has not sufficient local knowledge to enable him to do so fairly?—I think the Commissioner has not got the power. I think his system of working does not give him power to take into consideration all the things that should be taken into consideration.

36847. Does he work under certain definite rules?—I think he has to work under the ordinary rules that apply to the whole country.

36848. Then he is not allowed to take into consideration the peculiar local circumstances of the ground which he has inspected?—I think he is to a certain extent, but, for instance, I don't think he would take into consideration the value of the place or the high value of the land.

36849. Surely he would take the high value of the land into consideration?—Well, Griffith's valuation is much higher than in any part of the country, and that affects farmers injuriously, because they pay their rates on that valuation, and consequently they are paying a very high rate.

36850. Would you say that the Sub-Commissioners does not take that into consideration?—He does not take all the details into consideration that he should take.

36851. Your opinion is that he values the land too highly?—Yes. I am, of course, only surmising how he arrives at that.

36852. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—You are a farmer yourself?—I am.

36853. What is the extent of your holding?—I am a sheep farmer.

36854. Have you any tillage?—Very little—about a couple acres or so.

36855. Are you a judicial tenant?—No.

36856. Have you ever seen the Pink Schedule?—Yes.

36857. Are not all these facts that you refer to set forth in that schedule?—No.

36858. Is not the question of proximity to market set forth in the schedule?—Yes.

36859. Is not the general condition of the farm taken into consideration?—There is nothing on the schedule to show that it is.

36860. In every case, when the rent is fixed, is it not true that the valuer visits the land and looks all over it?—That is so.

36861. As far as the landlord is concerned, he has nothing to do with fixing the rent?—No.

36862. The fact that he does not visit the land has nothing to do with fixing the rent?—No.

36863. A man who visits a farm must, unless he is blind, see the condition of it, and the difficulties under which the land is worked?—Yes.

36864. Do you maintain that the Land Commission does not take into account all these facts?—I think the Commissioners take these things into consideration to a certain extent, but not fully.

36865. How do the rents here compare with Griffith's valuation?—They are very much below the valuation. I know, for example, one case where the valuation is £65 odd and the rent is £25.

36866. When you speak of small and large farms generally, you mean that it is the rule in this district that the land is below Griffith's valuation?—Yes.

36867. When you say that the valuation is higher in this district than in others are you aware that the same schedule of prices ruled valuation all over Ireland?—I believe that is so.

36868. As a rule, is there a horse kept on the £20 holdings here?—As a rule, there is.

36869. What do you mean when you say land can only be cultivated with a spade, because it is very important that the Commission should know what class of holdings you refer to in this connection?—I mean the land is too steep to plough it.

36870. Do you think that on a farm where it is necessary to keep a horse a decent living cannot be made?—I do.

36871. When you speak of the difficulties of working with up-to-date tools, what sort of tools have you in your mind?—I mean such farming implements as ploughs, and things of that kind. There are a great many farms in the district where both the farm and the valuation are big, but the amount of arable land is very small for the size of the holding, and the farmers have to try to cultivate every bit of it that they possibly can cultivate.

36872. You know the district better than I do, but I cannot understand why, if the majority of farmers can keep a horse for agricultural purposes, that they cannot keep an up-to-date plough or up-to-date tools. How do you explain that?—They are too poor to buy up-to-date tools.

36873. Do you find, in your experience, that men who can keep a horse are too poor to buy, say, a plough, with which to cultivate the land?—No, they keep a plough, but he cannot get a spring-plough, or things like that.

36874. And what other up-to-date implements are they not able to provide?—Turnip sowers, and similar implements.

36875. Do you mean to say a farmer cannot buy a turnip sower?—Not in this district. There has been a great improvement in agricultural implements, and many of these implements the farmers in this district are unable to secure.

36876. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Do you want implements rather than tools?—Yes.

36877. Sir JOHN CONNOR.—Is it a fact that the people do not know the value of up-to-date tools?—I think they know how to use them very well, but they cannot get them.

36878. Do you say that there is no want of knowledge as to the working of these implements?—They thoroughly understand them, but they cannot provide them.

36879. That is to say, that a farmer who keeps a horse on his land for agricultural purposes cannot save his labour and economize his expenses by the use of up-to-date tools?—That is so.

36880. What is the average price of a turnip horse?—I suppose from £8 to £10.

36881. One of these would last for years, I suppose?—It would.

36882. Do you wish the Commissioners to understand that a farmer who keeps a horse cannot afford to incur an expenditure of from £8 to £10 for a farming implement?—I say he can not.

36883. That being so, do you think it would be advantageous if the Department, or some other body could provide for the hiring out or providing of these implements on the "payment-made-again" system, spreading over a number of years?—I think it would be a good thing to have this done, and also to have some co-operation amongst the people.

May 22, 1907

Mr. Alexander
Black.

36883. Do you think it would be a relief—I think it would assist the farmers.

36884. Do you think it is very important that there should be some system by which these men would be able to get those tools which you have in your mind at cost price, the payment to be spread over a large number of years?—I think it would be an advantage.

36885. Do you think it would materially improve the economic conditions on the farms?—I think it would be of great assistance to the farmers.

36886. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Speaking of the difficulties of agriculture, owing to the steepness of the hillsides, I think, from the answer you just made, the agricultural parts of the holdings here are only small portions of the area of the farms?—Yes. The land about here does not do as permanent pasture land very well. It inclines to go back to its original state. The dry land goes to whins and the wet land to rushes. To take full value out of it it would require considerable working up.

36887. You have not dwelt upon the question of drainage? I suppose the very steepness of the hills solves that question a good deal?—There is not much, I think, to that.

36888. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—I understood you to say that you thought the facts as regards reeling and valuation and all that were not shown on the pink schedule? I understand you suggest that the Commissioners does not pay attention to the reeling valuation?—What I intend to convey is that they do not take all these things fully into consideration. The pink schedule may be made up all right under the various headings, but what I mean to say is that the Commissioners, considering the rents paid, do not take all things into consideration.

36889. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You said that if the tenants bought out at present prices that the ratepayers would come to grief. Has any loss been incurred in connection with land purchase?—No. There has been very little land purchase in this district.

36890. You say the rents in this part of the country are too high?—Yes.

36891. Do you think a man with a practical knowledge of farming, and impartial as between tenant and landlord, would fix these rents so high?—I think they would hardly do such a thing.

36892. Then you are not satisfied in Antrim?—I never had any objection to it.

36893. Do you think that the Sub-Commissioners have a knowledge of practical farming?—I do.

36894. Then why don't they fix the rents on a lower scale?—They may have a good knowledge of practical farming, but they have not enough knowledge of farming generally in these difficult places.

36895. Then it must follow that the larger knowledge you have of agriculture the higher the rent you put upon it?—Oh, no; but they value on a system for the whole country. In dealing with this place you want a special system—you want a special system for the North.

36896. You say they do not take into account the local circumstances?—No.

36897. Have you heard complaints about the personnel of the Sub-Commission in Antrim?—No.

36898. It comes to this—you have an ideal Sub-Commission, and this ideal Sub-Commission, with its extensive knowledge of agriculture, proposes to put on agriculture a price that the agriculture of the district is not able to bear?—That is the case on this mountain side.

36899. Would it be your answer that a person with a more limited knowledge of agriculture could arrive at a fairer valuation?—No.

36900. Mr. BRYCE.—You said, in answer to the Chairman, that in the time of Griffith's valuation the products, except wheat, were lower than at present?—I am not conversant with the fact.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The witness took it from Sir John Cocken.

Sir JOHN COCKEN.—Yes, I said that.

36901. Mr. BRYCE.—I assume that such is the case, and that the witness knew cases in which the rent was £25 annually as against Griffith's valuation of £65, and at the same time you said that upon these existing rentals the farmers were only able to work the land with the assistance of their children, and that they could not pay outside labour?—That is so.

36902. What must have been the state of the farmer at the time of Griffith's valuation, when the rent was practically the same as the valuation? The price of produce has risen since that date. How did the farmers get on then?—I think the farmers broke down sooner than that now; and, as a rule, most of them went to America.

36903. The fact is, that in your lifetime everybody lives better, and has a higher standard of living, than formerly?—Yes; and in addition to that you could not hire labour at the same price now as you could have done at that period.

36904. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The remuneration of labour has risen?—Yes, very much.

36905. Mr. BRYCE.—That will account, in fact, for the fact that the lands have fallen and prices have risen, and that the farmer is not better off?—Yes.

36906. Sir JOHN COCKEN.—Can you give the Commission any information as to the amounts paid by tenants in this district for the tenants' interest in farms sold?—There are very few farms sold.

36907. Have any that were sold fetched considerable prices or not?—They fetched a considerable price. It is very seldom in this mountainous district that a farm comes into the market at all. They are, as a rule, handed down from sire to son.

36908. But do they never reach a point when they cannot go on, and have to sell their farms?—Very few cases of the kind have come under my notice.

36909. Any that have come under your notice have fetched a considerable price? Can you tell us of any case of that kind?—I cannot just think of one at the present time.

36910. You cannot give the Commissioners any idea of how many years' purchase the tenants' interest of the small farms fetched?—No.

36911. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say there has been very little selling here; has no landlord sold his estate?—Very little selling has taken place.

36912. Was this because there was no offer to purchase, or was it because the tenants and the landlords could not come to terms?—They could not come to terms.

36913. Then there have been negotiations going on?—I think there is a sale going on at present that is likely to come off. I think you will have a witness to give evidence of that kind.

36914. Does it cover a large estate?—Only a few tenants are concerned.

36915. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You say that certain negotiations were a failure?—Yes.

36916. Would you give us some idea as to what brought about the failure?—I can only give you one reason, and that was the difference between what was asked for the land and what was offered. I know one case where the landlord gave his tenants an opportunity of buying out. One condition of the purchase was that they were to make no offer, and to say nothing. They were either to accept or reject, and nothing more. They were to get a reduction of 4s. in the 6s on first-term rents and 2s. in the 2s on second-term rents.

36917. That is twenty-four and a half years on first-term rents?—Yes, but it was on condition that there was to be no offer. It was a case of either accepting or rejecting.

36918. Have any properties been sold in Antrim under the old Acts?—Yes. I think there was portion of one sold in Cuskendall.

36919. What was the price?—It was sold at twenty years' purchase.

36920. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Under the Ashbourne Act?—Yes.

36921. Mr. O'KEEFE.—First term rents?—Yes.

36922. Can you tell us of anything that has enhanced the value of land in Antrim that would justify an increase of five years' purchase?—I cannot tell you.

36923. Has farm produce fetched higher prices?—No. Sheep have gone high.

36924. What was the property sold under the Ashbourne Act? I mean can you give me the number of years—was it five years?—I cannot say.

36925. You know nothing to justify an increase of nearly five years on the value of land in County Antrim?—I do not. I am convinced that it was a good job people did not purchase here.

36926. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnovan.—Is it that since the schedule of prices was made out for Griffith's valuations the price of labour has gone up and the

May 25, 1907.

Mr. Alexander Black.

standard of living is greater? About 1852, I suppose, the people consumed very little tea?—Very little.

36927. From 1850 to 1860 the people were in the habit of manufacturing on their own farms what they wore?—Yes.

36928. Can you as a practical man estimate what a householder or farmer whose then valuation was £30 would now pay for tea and sugar and clothing and all these other things which he now buys in the shop, and which then he did without, or for which he found substitutes of his own farm?—I could not give you an answer to that. I know it would come to a very considerable sum. At the period to which you refer people lived on the products of their farms such as potatoes and oatmeal, whereas now they live a good deal on tea and meat, and other things.

36929. Don't you think that comes to a very considerable amount comparatively?—Yes; groceries in these days come to very little.

36930. And the clothing was nearly all made in the county?—Yes, there were weavers in these days.

36931. The standard of living has become much more costly?—Yes.

36932. And it might be open to doubt whether the food of the people was better than it is now?—I don't think it is so good now.

36933. Is not there a cost for living now which is perfectly distinct from the cost for labour?—Yes.

36934. The upkeep of a family apart from the price paid for labour is more costly now than half a century ago?—Yes, much more costly.

36935. At what rate could a man have been employed half a century ago for farm labour? How much did servant boys get in this district?—Boys who get £3 for the half-year in the past years are now getting £12.

36936. And the only thing you put against that is that labour-saving machinery has come into use?—Yes.

36937. And from what you state about the hilly land, it is impossible to apply this modern machinery to the cultivation of the soil?—Quite so. The farmers do not get the full value from the machines.

36938. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Does any ordinary small holder of, say, £10 or £12 valuation employ labour?—If he has to hire labour he generally goes to the wall. They generally cultivate as much of the land as the family can work.

36939. You stated that before the rates were reduced general farmers went to the wall?—Yes.

36940. Have you any knowledge of the way in which the same class of land is arranged in Ireland and England?—No. The land is held in a different way in England. The farmer in England cultivates the whole place and makes it more profitable than they can make land in this district.

36941. Mr. BRYCE.—Are there many sheep farms as large as your own farm?—The sheep are principally kept on a few large spots on the mountains. The small farmers are not given to keeping sheep.

36942. Have they not a pasture to each of them?—Some of them have an undivided mountain.

36943. Where there is a large plot of land such as you have, is it held on the eleven months' system, or on a lease?—On a lease.

36944. That is such as in Scotland?—Yes, on the same principle.

36945. Not on the eleven months' system such as the grazing farms in the South are held?—No.

36946. Sir JOHN GOSWELL.—Are there many small holdings adjoining your big farm?—Yes.

36947. We have had many representations made to us pointing out that a policy ought to be adopted of compulsorily taking the big farms and dividing them up among the small holders. Would you be in favour of that policy?—I don't know.

36948. I suppose it would be a question of price?—Yes.

36949. You would not like the buyer to fix the price?—I would like it fixed fairly.

36950. Would you give the State power to take your farm at the price fixed by officials of the State?—It would depend upon whether it was being taken on a fair and square principle.

36951. I am asking you about the price?—I would like to know something about the basis at which the price would be fixed—whether they would take into consideration how I became possessed of the farm.

36952. You would not like it to be done that, would you?—No.

36953. Mr. O'NEALE.—The principle of compulsion is not novel in these countries?—No.

36954. It is applied to occupants of land for railway purposes?—Yes.

36955. And under the Labourers' Act?—Yes.

36956. You would not object to the principle of compulsion if the settlement was left to a tribunal which would be regarded as a fair one between all parties concerned?—No.

36957. The State has said that dual ownership must go?—Yes.

36958. It has also said that congestion is as evil as that must disappear. Do you think if it found its operations blocked it would be worthy of Parliament not to take the necessary measures to give effect to its principle to which it adheres?—I think so.

36959. Mr. BRYCE.—What do you do with your wool?—do you send it over to Scotland?—I do.

36960. Is there any broker here through whom you deal?—I give it to a broker in Glasgow.

36961. All the wool is sold in that way?—The majority of it is.

36962. Who are the landlords here?—The Earl of Antrim and Lord Londonderry.

36963. Do you think there would be any possibility of a woollen industry being successful here?—I think there would. These would be every prospect of the wool being manufactured here and a large quantity of it could be got.

36964. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Would the manufacture of wool pay?—Yes.

36965. What is the reason that no demand has been made to start a woollen mill?—Is it want of capital?—They had a mill at Cushendun, and I think it failed through want of proper facilities in putting the material on the market. We would not facilitate for getting it to market either by rail or sea. We would need a pier.

36966. Where is your wool shipped?—At Ballycastle.

36967. You would not want shipping in which to send wool away if you had a factory on the spot?—No, but you would require shipping for other things.

36968. Mr. BRYCE.—The wool when made into clothing would have to be shipped?—Yes.

36969. How do you ship it at Ballycastle?—I small coasting steamer belonging to Mr. McIlroy takes it away.

36970. Does that steamer go to Glasgow?—It does.

36971. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Have you any suggestions to bring forward, or can you suggest any remedies for the improvement of the district?—My first suggestion would be that the land should be fairly valued by an independent Government body such as the Congested Districts Board and bought out. It would finally be in the interests of the landlord, the tenant, and everyone else.

36972. Do you mean under the Act of 1903?—No, by having the land valued to see that there was security for the price paid.

36973. Mr. BRYCE.—How do you propose the loss of purchase should be fixed?—I think the amount of the security if divided into the number of years' purchase would give you the result.

36974. And to whom would you leave the fixation of the number of years?—To some independent Government body such as the Congested Districts Board, who would be impartial to every side.

36975. Sir JOHN GOSWELL.—Where the State is carrying out the policy of acquiring compulsorily the land from one class to give it to another, is it your opinion that if a loss is incurred, any particular class should suffer the loss or that the whole State should bear the loss?—I think the whole State should bear the loss.

36976. Do you think, for instance, in your own case if the State were compulsorily to take your land from you, that it would be right to leave you with less income than you had before?—I don't think it would be right.

36977. Therefore you think that the guiding principle in carrying out that policy is that no individual class should lose by it, and that if a loss has to be borne it should be borne by the whole community represented by the State?—Yes.

36978. Mr. BRYCE.—Supposing a case where a farmer had been buying his land for too dear, it does

not follow that the State should bear the burden if he is brought out, and that he should be put in the same position as he would have been if he made a good bargain?—I don't think he should. I think he should make a bargain for the land the same as he would make for anything else. If he made a bad bargain I don't think the State has any right to step in.

36078. You consider that the rents are far too high in this locality?—Yes.

36079. You don't consider that the landlord should be guaranteed by the whole community the actual rental that he has been getting?—No, I said he ought to be secured in the equivalent of what he is getting on a fair value.

36080. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Have you any other suggestions for the development of the locality?—I think something should be done to supplement the earnings of the farmers and young men of the district. If they could go fishing in the slack season it would help them and keep them in the place.

36081. Was there formerly fishing around this coast?—I believe there was, but not in my time.

36082. Do you think there are fish here yet?—Yes.

36083. What sort of fish are caught?—I have been told that there are plenty of herrings to be caught, but there are no facilities for catching them.

36084. Does the herring fleet from Scotland or elsewhere come here?—I have never known of them to come here.

36085. What you mean is that you have some additional pier accommodation in your mind?—Yes.

36086. You do not come under the Congested Districts Board as regards fishing?—

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—No.

Witness.—There is just one other suggestion I should make, and that is that something should be done to erect sanitary dwellings for farmers on the same principle as houses are erected for labourers. Some money should be lent them for the purpose.

36087. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Before going into that, what would you suggest should be done for developing the fishing industry?—Some piers and boats are required. We would require a pier here, and another in Coshewan, and boats in each place.

36088. Are there many fishermen here?—There are plenty available at certain seasons of the year.

36089. The pier accommodation is not sufficient to enable the fishing community to grow?—There is no pier accommodation here at all.

36090. Will we have any evidence as to the class of pier that would suffice for Coshewan?—Yes.

Mr. S. M. DORRIS examined.

36091. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You reside at Glenamill?—Yes.

36092. Do you represent the local committee here?—Yes. I represent the local committee that has been meeting here for the last three weeks, since notice appeared in the papers with reference to the visit of the Commission.

36093. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Do you mean the local committee to give effect to the Royal Commission?—We have been trying to get as much information as we could to lay before the Commission, and we have made out a report.

36094. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What districts do you cover?—From Torr Point to Garrow Head. The central portion of the Glens of Antrim between Torr and Garrow Head constitutes the Coshewan Dispersary District. It is a district cut off by nature from the outside world, and utterly differing also from the rest of Antrim in its past history and in the present needs and circumstances of its inhabitants. It contains 45,661 acres; 6,500 acres are justly classed as turf and barren mountain; 90,955 acres are classed as mountain grazing; 11,309 as pasture. There are 115 acres of plantation. Only 3,804 acres are arable. Of this some 970 acres are fair level alluvial land. The remainder is hillside.

36095. Did you say 970 are level?—Yes. The mountain grasslands vary from fair black-faced sheep land to wet bog on which nothing can live. Owing to the north-easterly aspect the climate is one of the coldest and most backward in Ireland, especially in spring. The rain-fall is much the same as that of the west coast.

36096. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—What is the actual rain-fall?—About 45 inches.

36097. On the west coast it comes up to 50 and 55?—I am sure it would run to 60 in places like Trostan.

36098. How about the population here?—The population in 1881 was 4,015, and in 1901, 3,393.

36099. And the valuation?—The total valuation is £12,248 19s., working out at £3 12s. 6d. per head. The valuation in this district is very misleading. The £3,391 on buildings includes, for instance, £280 on the railway and mines in Aghaveale and Berrut; £287 on eight residences alone near Coshewan and Coshewan, and a large number of high valuations on the various distilleries, mines, railways, quarries, etc., the district being strewn with the wrecks of various undertakings which have all failed. None of these items are worth anything to the district, but they all help to swell the valuation on buildings. The valuation of the land is £8,667 12s. Deducting these holdings over £200, we get a valuation of £2,320 for 970 families, giving less than £2 11s. per holding. It is notorious that Antrim is the highest valued land in Ireland. The fact is well known to all land agents, Land Commissioners, and all who know about land value in Ireland. The

reasons were explained by Sir John Barton two or three years ago.

37000. For the Committee of the House of Commons?—Yes. The valuation began in the South and the South-west at Famine times, and they then worked North-east, and finished in this part of Ireland thirteen years afterwards. Sir Richard Griffith's valuations gave evidence to the effect that they had put up the valuations to the rents, which of course, were very high in this district at the time, so that Griffith's valuation on land therefore is no test of poverty as between, say, the Glens and the Congested Districts in the West. The best standard is second term judicial rents, as there is no reason to suppose these vary all over Ireland. In the South and West generally these are about the same as the valuation. In this district the rent is usually little more than half the valuation.

37001. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—When you say you don't know of any reason why a different standard should be followed by Land Commissioners in one part of Ireland from another I suppose that is consistent with different Commissioners following different standards?—That may be. Some Sub-Commissioners are notoriously different from others. In the townland of Tamlaght, with its mountainous land, the valuation is £157 12s., and the rent £30 7s.

37002. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Is that judicial rent?—Yes.

37003. Mr. BAYNE.—Is it second term?—Yes. Then there is Mr. Neil John Black's farm at £25 rent and £53 17s. valuation.

37004. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would that include valuation on buildings?—Yes. On nearly the whole of Glendun there is a valuation of £280, and the rent is £517 0s. 8d.

37005. Mr. O'KANE.—I make it £1,112?—That makes my case stronger.

Mr. O'KANE.—It does.

37006. Sir JOHN CONNELL.—Where did you get these judicial rents from?—My mother has about £200 a year from judicial rents. I got the other figures from the tenants themselves. It may be taken that the rent is little more than half the valuation. In Greenagh the valuation is £93 and the rent £49 12s. In Cloagh the valuation is £122 8s., while the rent is £72 12s., and in Craginagh the valuation is £49 8s. and the rent £25 2s.

37007. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The average valuation is £31, and if the rent were only £5 then that valuation would be down £5, or a little more than the standard of competition?—Yes. We cannot prove this absolutely in black and white without ascertaining judicial rents for whole district, but the above figures are not special case, but are typical of the whole district. The poverty and congestion seem to us to be chiefly due to the total absence of means of communication. There is little or no land available for migration, and I think migration ought to be quite unnecessary. This district

July 12, 1907.
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Mr. Alexander Black.

Mr. S. M. Dorris.

May 28, 1907.

Mr. S. M.
Dublin.

could and would support at least its present population if the farmers had any outlet for their produce and the fishermen a harbour for their boats. At this moment the Glenties is probably the most inaccessible district in Ireland. The so-called Ceshindall narrow gauge railway ends on the top of a mountain seven miles from the place it is supposed to serve, and the passenger service is inconvenient and uncomfortable, and the goods rates exorbitant. The sea should be, as in the Scottish highlands, the best means of access to all parts of the district. From Larne to Portrush—over fifty miles of a notoriously wild and exposed coast—there is not a single harbour. The disastrous results of this isolation may be summed up under six main heads:—(1) The farmers have to take loss for their produce; often no buyers at all attend the local fairs. (2) The shopkeeper has to charge them more for their goods. (3) The fishermen can do no good, though there are plenty of fish in the bay, because there is no safe place for boats or nets.

37002. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You state there is no safe harbour of refuge from Larne to Portrush?—Yes.

37003. Would not it be a natural inference that the fishing could not be developed until a refuge is provided?—That is our opinion locally. My next points are:—(4) No industry can contend with the delays and expenses both of getting raw materials and of shipping its produce. (5) Limestone and iron ore are both plentiful and of good quality; but little is done in either since the piers were washed away. (6) Tourists who do come in small numbers would come in thousands were it not for the intense discomfort and delays of the journey to Ceshindall. The remedies I suggest which should be applied are as follows:—First and foremost, a harbour and the extension of the railway to Ceshindall. These will benefit all parts of the district alike. Second only to these is the need of a road to Ceshindall. Anyone who has seen the locality will need no further proof of its absolute necessity.

37004. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The Commission were anxious to come that way this morning, but we were told that the road was not motorable. Is that so?—You could wheel a bicycle over it. There is a railway to Parkmore, and we think it should be extended to Ceshindall.

37005. Mr. BARRY.—How many miles off is Parkmore?—It is six by one road and seven miles by the good road.

37006. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Does the railway line run to Rathfrail?—No. The terminus of the iron ore railway is four miles from Ceshindall.

37007. Where do you suggest the harbour for Ceshindall should be created?—There are at least five sites where it could be created. That question of the harbour is connected with the railway, and one of the chief ideas in making the harbour would be the shipping of iron ore. I should like also to suggest that Glenties river should be drained, because about 300 acres of the best land in the district are often rendered worthless by flooding. The landlords who spent £4,000 in excavating the wreck originally cannot reasonably be asked to do anything under the existing circumstances of the land laws, and the work would be beyond the capacity of the tenants. I would also suggest the establishment of a woollen industry and the carrying out of reforestation. We have evidence on all these points.

37008. You don't allege any engineering difficulties in the way of extending the railway line?—No. Mr. Wynn, the late engineer to the Northern Counties Railway Company, was over the route some years ago and laid it out.

37009. Are there a number of sheep in this district?—I have about 2,000 sheep myself. The Agricultural Department returns show that there are 12,900 in the district.

37010. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have the small occupiers many sheep?—Most of them have on the mountains. They have mountains in common.

37011. Would these farms be suitable for tillage or sheep grazing?—The tops of the mountains are only suitable for sheep grazing. The country here is a table land. The average altitude is from 600 to 1,000 above the sea level. The glens are, as it were, cracks in this table land running inland from the sea. Nothing but black face sheep will live on the hills.

37012. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you sell your wool?—Yes, nearly always through a broker in Glasgow. I have to send it by either Larne or Belfast.

Last year it cost me about £4. a lb. to send it to Glasgow.

37013. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have you any other class of sheep here besides black-faced ones?—Nothing else will live on the mountains. There may be some others in the district here. The men employed in the mines are mostly resident on the Ballymena side.

37014. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—How far are the mines?—Parkmore Station is the nearest to the mines.

37015. As regards emigration, where do the young girls go who leave the district? Do they go to America or Belfast?—I am sure everyone will tell you the young girls go to America and not Belfast.

37016. Don't a good many go to Belfast at certain seasons of the year, and come back again?—Not that I know of.

37017. You have no English or Scotch emigration at certain parts of the year?—No.

37018. They don't go to English and Scotch mines and come back?—A certain number of miners do, but they are outside this district.

37019. Do many men go to Scotland or England for the harvest?—I don't think I know of any at all. We think the sons of families would make a good deal more money if they could remain here and fish instead of having to go to other countries.

37020. You are aware that the fishing trade now is only met by following the fish all round the coast, you cannot make a trade of catching herrings during the month or two that they come in, and then let your boat addle for the rest of the year. The Scotch fishermen follow the fish the whole year round?—There are better witnesses on that point than me. I don't know so much about that as other things. The division of the union is rather costly here, because part of it is in Larne Union. One of the poorest and most congested parts is Ardara district; it is a Larne, which is twenty-five miles away. We have no intercourse with Larne. Business intercourse in the district is done with Ballymena.

37021. How are the boundaries of this union fixed?—By the Local Government Board, I think.

37022. Do they vary from time to time?—I don't think they do.

37023. Sir JOHN CUNEO.—Do the farmers not lie by putting their farm produce into the basket?—That is chiefly done in this district. With regard to the sales; one small sale was made to about twelve tenants at 4s. in the 2 on second term rents.

37024. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think we were told that was a first term rent?—That was the offer.

37025. Mr. O'KELLY.—Do you agree with the reasons assigned by the former witness?—No. As far as I know no serious offer has been made by the landlords in this district, and no serious offer was made on the part of the tenants to buy.

37026. Did you hear the previous witness's statement?—I did, but I do not agree with it.

37027. Do you agree with his description of the case that the landlord wrote the tenants, saying he would sell if they were willing to give a price representing a reduction of 2s. in the 2 on second term rents, and 4s. in the 2 on first term rents; have you any knowledge of that particular case?—He did not give the names, and I cannot state what case he refers to.

37028. Would your knowledge justify you in contradicting that statement?—I don't contradict it.

37029. Therefore, we may take it that the witness would not have said so only he was in a position to verify his evidence?—Quite so.

37030. Would not that be a serious offer?—I don't think so.

37031. Why?—You may often have heard of people asking a bigger price for an article than they expected to get. A man might ask £200 for a horse, and be prepared to take £50.

37032. Did not you hear him say that the tenants were to make no offer at all, and that they were either to accept or reject the terms—do you contradict that?—It does not affect the question at all.

37033. Is it not a serious offer?—Not necessarily.

37034. A landlord specifically says: "You will get 2s. in the 2 reduction on second, and 4s. in the 2 on first term rents, but you are not to make an offer that is to say, I am not going to have any bargaining one way or another." Do you mean to say he would drop negotiations if the tenants attempted to bargain?—I think he did not mean to sell at all.

37039. And the tenants did not approach him; he acted on his own initiative in the matter?—I don't know.

37040. He simply shuts the door on all bargaining?—Yes; but I don't think he was serious.

37041. Is it your view that it was not a serious offer, based upon the desire of the landlord to sell?—Quite so.

37042. That is sufficient for my purpose. Is it, in the £ on first term rents extravagant?—Yes. I would like to know the name of the landlord.

37043. How does that affect it?—You would require to have the exact day and date on which the rents were fixed before you could value any rents.

37044. When might these rents be fixed?—I could not tell you.

Mr. O'KELLY.—When were these second term rents fixed?—Mr. Stock.—I think about 1895.

37046. Mr. O'KELLY (to witness).—Do you think so, in the £ on second term rents, fixed in 1895, extravagant?—I do.

37047. And the extravagant price leads you to think that the offer was not serious?—Quite so.

37048. Have you any point to make about the price of sheep?—From the year 1826 to the present time the price has varied from 12s. 6d. to 23s. 6d., average 19s. 6d. It was higher in 1826 than in any year during the whole period. The lowest price was touched about 1890. The prices fluctuated.

37049. Sir JOHN COLSON.—What about the price of wool?—The highest price was 1s. 5½d. in 1866. Last year 9d.

37050. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Where people have mountain tracts the price of sheep is of great

importance?—Yes, but they don't keep half as much on the mountains as they formerly kept.

37051. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Would the carrying out of surface-drainage, where the people have holdings in common, be rather difficult?—Yes.

37052. Do they ever put sheep and cattle on the same mountains?—Nearly always in the summer time. It would be much better for the farmers if the mountain holdings were consolidated.

37053. Mr. BRYCE.—Why do you think there would be so much more made out of it if the holdings were consolidated?—Because it is impossible for a man to improve the breed of his sheep for one thing, because if a breeder has a good run his neighbour's stock would benefit by the fact. It is difficult to look after a few sheep on a mountain.

37054. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Do these breeders ever have a shepherd in common?—No. I think the sheep look after themselves.

37055. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would you kindly summarise the advantages you expect from the extension of the railway and the making of a harbour? Are those the advantages, to develop the fishing industry and to make the means of transit more available to the people of the district for conveying their produce to the market?—Yes.

37056. Mr. BRYCE.—At what age do they generally sell their cattle?—From eighteen months to two years. You will get better evidence from the Rural District Commission on this question.

37057. Sir JOHN COLSON.—When you refer to the farmers keeping the cattle for two years do you refer to the farmers of the small holdings or of the large?—I refer to the small holdings. There are very few large holdings.

Mr. WILLIAM A. TRAIL examined.

37058. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You are managing director and Engineer of the Glenties Canevery Electric Traction, and were formerly attached to His Majesty's Geological Survey?—Yes.

37059. Tell us who you appear for and represent?—I represent the local committee.

37060. Do you sit on the local committee?—No. They asked me to appear here to-day. The development of the mineral resources of that portion of the County Antrim comprising the district of Glenties, Parkmore, and Omagh, &c., and the opening up of its magnificent scenery as a tourist resort has for many years claimed my special attention. While working on Her Majesty's Geological Survey in that district, I was more particularly associated with the iron ore industry, and I was also struck with the beauty of the scenery, practically inaccessible to the ordinary tourist, and which if properly opened up would be a mine of wealth to the district. I refer now to the years from 1876 to 1882. The iron ore industry had been developed to a certain extent by the opening of mines at Cargan, Parkmore, &c., and also in many other localities near Ballymena, and the ore was carried from these mines—many not more than six miles from the seaboard at Red Bay—through Ballymena to Belfast, a distance of from forty to fifty miles. The cheap freight from Belfast—its being carried almost as ballast—to Barrow and other English ports, to a certain extent compensated for the long land journey and high rates from the mines to Belfast. As the then partly mineral railway from Ballymena to Parkmore and Belfast was owned by the Northern Counties Railway Company, it was natural they wished the iron ore traffic to come over their system all these miles. With the inflated prices for the ore, 25s. to 27s. a ton it was able to pay for this long railway carriage. I may mention that at that time the Antrim iron ore, as red hematite, was specially adapted for the making of steel, on account of its freedom from sulphur and phosphorus, by being mixed with the Glenties ores, steel at that time beginning to come into much greater demand than previously. About the earlier dates I mentioned, 1875 to 1880, a wealthy London company took the royalties along the Glenties valley and constructed a narrow gauge railway from Red Bay up to their mines at the head of the Glenties Valley, and also constructed, of massive concrete, a pier giving deep water at all tides. This

railway and pier were beautifully engineered and thoroughly well constructed, and I understand and believe that they spent £25,000 in hard cash in the district. They constructed their works for the shipment of some 300,000 tons per annum; the most they ever shipped was about 15,000 tons in any one year. There had always been a rivalry among the mine owners at the sending of the ore the long distance to Belfast, and many systems were devised to bring the ore down from these mines for shipment at Red Bay old pier, and this desire for a shorter land carriage became more accentuated as the price of the iron ore fell. Notable among these systems for bringing down the ore to Red Bay, was the overhead or aerial railway, upon which something like £40,000 was spent, a most beautifully devised system extending with its branches for some eight miles, in which a continuous series of buckets filled with the ore were carried along on endless moving steel cables, bringing the full buckets one way, and returning the empty buckets back on the returning cable.

37061. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Was the £40,000 in addition to the £25,000?—Yes.

37062. Mr. O'KELLY.—What is the name of the company?—I forget, it is so long ago. Irregularities of surface rendered little to this system, so that it was admirably adapted for use in this district. Ireland here possessed the premier or pioneer aerial wire railway. Unfortunately for some cause it never worked properly, only for a very short time, weeks or months. Some said that the steel wire cables were recklessly cut, others that the system was at fault. My belief was that it was simply from the use of too light wire cables, which broke under the heavy weight of the iron ore. Several lines on this same system are now working most successfully, notably one in the Argentine Andes over an absolutely otherwise impracticable country. Then there has always been the carrying of the ore by road down to Red Bay, and the use of traction engines on the Parkmore and Glenties road to the detriment of the road surface and excessive cost of upkeep, amounting to upwards of £200 per annum, a tax which falls almost entirely upon the landowners and tenants, and not upon the mine owners, who are the real delinquents. One set of persons—the mine owners—are making their profits out of the pockets of others, the ratepayers, which is hardly fair. Under the circumstances above described, and with the approval of the London company (Messrs. Begley and

May 24, 1907.

Mr. E. M. Deane.

Mr. William A. Trail.

May 25, 1907.
Mr. William
A. Tuck.

Company), in the year 1880 I got up Parliamentary plans and carried through an Act of Parliament for the construction of a short line of railway called the Glencarriff Railway and Harbour—only two miles long—to connect the Ballymena and Parkmore Railways—or Red Bay Railway as it was euphemistically called, because it did not go to Red Bay—with the Glencarriff Railway, both being on the same gauge, so that all the iron ore from the mines about Charpy, Parkmore, Melrose, &c., could be brought down by the Glencarriff Railway and shipped from the Glencarriff Pier, the capabilities of shipping ore from the old Red Bay Pier being very limited. We also sought for running powers over the Red Bay Railway as far as Ballymena in order to have the entire line opened for passenger traffic. Although we had the strongest opposition from the Northern Counties Railway Company against both carrying the ore down to Glencarriff Pier, and also for opening the line for passenger traffic, I carried through my Bill and obtained the Act of Parliament in 1880. At that time I told the Northern Counties Railway Company that "they were killing the goose that laid the golden eggs."

37053. Mr. O'NEILL.—Did you go on with the railway for which you got Parliamentary powers?—No.
37054. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—At a point of fact, you did not make the line at all—it fell through. It was the project that fell through and not the railway.

37055. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Were the rails actually taken up and sold?—Yes. The landlord took them and sold them for the rent.

37056. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—The grading was done?—Oh, yes. Shortly after, but times fell upon the iron ore industry, prices fell from 25s. or 27s. to 3s. and even less, other English coals were found adaptable for use in the making of steel as well as the Bannow area, and the excessive freight of the ore from the Parkmore district round to Belfast almost brought the local industry to a standstill. The English company found their ore was of too low grade and difficult to work and inefficient in quantity to pay, and after holding on for some years at last determined in their royalty rents and the whole concern became derelict, the rails, as I understand, the last available asset, being seized and sold for rent. The pier, from neglect for so many years, is now in a ruinous condition. The Glencarriff Railway connecting Lick project also fell through.

37057. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are the bridges in a good condition?—They are in a fair condition, I believe. The bridge at the end of the line has gone. Of late years a change has occurred; the iron ore industry has somewhat revived, and the Red Bay railway has been opened for passenger traffic as far as Parkmore, and a brisk summer tourist traffic has been established, and the barges of the Glencarriff Glen and Valley have been opened up by puffs and tow-boats. Tourists come to the Glen both from the Ballymena side and up the valley from the coast road, but a railway ending near the top of a mountain, with a comparatively limited number of cars to meet the passengers, must restrict the tourist or local passenger traffic.

37058. I think I gather from your evidence that the Glencarriff Railway really broke down from want of traffic?—Yes. It was purely a mineral line.

37059. The iron ore fell in value, and the Company could not find a market at a paying price in this country, and therefore the railway fell away and is now derelict?—Yes. Their mines were not so productive as they anticipated.

37060. Are these mines being worked now?—No. They are all stopped since 1892 or 1893.

37061. Are these the only mines in the neighbourhood?—No; there are the Parkmore mines.

37062. How does their stuff travel?—By land to Belfast.

37063. Was the old pier so planned as to stand the break up of the sea coming in at Red Bay?—It was. It was a large mass of concrete. In fact a large portion of it is there yet, which shows the substantial nature of it.

37064. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Was there to be any anchorage in rough weather?—I think the system was to wire to Larne harbour, and a steamer arrived in a few hours.

37065. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—How far is Larne harbour from Red Bay?—Twenty-five miles.

37066. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—So that the steamer arrived in one and a half or two hours?—Yes. My views now are the same as in 1880, that the best and only feasible way to open up and develop this district is on the lines of my former project, by connecting the Red Bay railway at Parkmore with the old Glencarriff railway, the earthworks, bridges, and culverts of which still exist, and only requiring sleepers and rails. In the connecting link railway no waga gradient is proposed than the ruling gradient of the old Glencarriff mineral line of 1 in 40, there being even worse gradients than this upon the existing Red Bay railway.

37067. The mining companies would be interested in the construction of a new way to the coast?—Yes, except that the chief mining company is influenced by the Midland Railway Company.

37068. Have you made an estimate of the money required to construct and put a railway in working order such as you suggest?—I should say about 225,000 would complete the whole thing.

37069. What is the distance?—I think it is six miles.

37070. And 525,000 would be your estimate for completing a railway and building a pier?—Yes, but would cost something more. I thought we had as yet got so far as to give evidence of estimates, as I was not prepared for that matter.

37071. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—You think it was due to a fall in the price of ore that the mines were closed?—Yes, and it was also due to the unproductive nature of the mines. The ore was down to about 6d. a ton when the mines were given up.

37072. If the ore is not there the companies will not take up the mines again?—Well, one has cut in some places and enlarges in other places.

37073. How many men are employed where the ore is working now?—Some seventy or seventy-five in one Company's mine, I am told.

37074. Is it doing a fairly prosperous business?—Yes.

37075. You dwell somewhat upon the tourist trade question. Do you think the tourist traffic really increases the demand for labour very much in this district?—It increases the sale of all products in the district. We find it does so in the Glencarriff Glen district, where the demand for poultry and butter, hay, oats, &c., has increased enormously from what it was before.

37076. Has the tourist traffic raised the price of produce?—It has.

37077. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are advising the re-opening of this line of railway not altogether in the interests of mining but because you think it will assist the general traffic?—Yes, and the tourist trade as well.

37078. Therefore you contemplate that the line should be made not only as an ore carrying line, but as a passenger and general railway communication line?—Yes.

37079. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—When the company first started the iron ore business found that the supply was diminishing did they take any steps to find out if there was any more near at hand that they could take in hand?—They dropped the thing chiefly because the price fell from 25s. to 3s. They don't go and the mine did not revive.

37080. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would there be any chance of inducing that company to come back again?—I don't think so. They burned their ships once and they are not likely to come back again.

37081. Sir JOHN COSGRAVE.—Would another company come here?—Certainly, because they would not like to incur the expense of making a railway and to leave it.

37082. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you think the country would be revived if there was a proper harbor and pier created?—Yes.

37083. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would it not be worth while to put before the members of that company the fact that apparently the yield of the district is not fully developed, and that there may be some for the profitable working of a railway and be in the time to come. Hence now, I am an old man in the company now—I am afraid I would not come back under any circumstances. But a terminal station near the chapel at Red Bay Cusshindall would be distant a little over two miles along a level road, sufficient for all local accommodation, and the iron ore traffic could be shipped either at the repaired Glencarriff pier or from Red Bay pier.

It may be advocated by some persons, why not extend the Red Bay railway from Retreat directly into Cushendall, and open the portion from Parkmore to Retreat for passengers. The line from Retreat to Red Bay pier has been engineered, but from the great difference of levels and shortness of the distance several back shunts had to be introduced and such excessively high gradients as to be practically unworkable. A few local persons might travel by such a route, but the vast number of tourists desire to go down the Glenties Valley, which, from a scenic point

of view, is far superior to the Cushendall Valley. From the financial point of view there are no persons in the district sufficiently interested, or at least able to give large financial support, but with a grant from the Congress District Board, and possibly a heron's guarantee for £10,000, the project could be readily carried through, with the probability of the Midland Railway, Northern Committee Committee, undertaking to work the line as part of their completed Red Bay railway.

May 25, 1905.

Mr. William A. Trail.

Mr. DANIEL McALLISTER examined.

37094. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You reside at Cushendall?—Yes.

37095. As I understand, you come to represent the same district as the last witness?—Yes, principally in connection with the railway rates charged to the people of this district. I complain very much of the high rates charged by the railway company, which are particularly high against Cushendall. There is no other place of the same distance where they charge so high.

37096. Can you explain that?—It is due to want of competition. We tried competition at one time, and a small steamer was brought from Derry, but it could not be continued for want of traffic.

37097. I presume as much pressure as you could command has been brought to bear upon the railway company to reduce these rates that you complain of?—Yes; several times.

37098. Did they give you any answer except that they could not reduce them?—No. They said that they could not reduce the rates and that they were quite reasonable.

37099. Did you bring the case before the Railway Commission?—No.

37100. Sir JOHN COLLIER.—You are aware that there is a Vice-Regal Commission sitting on railways now?—Yes.

37101. Have you taken any steps to bring these things that you complain of under their notice?—No.

37102. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—It is not easy for persons living in comparatively remote districts

like Cushendall to go to Dublin to the Commission?—No.

37103. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Did they hold a sitting in the north of Ireland?—Not that I am aware of.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I am afraid this is outside our jurisdiction altogether. I don't know that we could do more for you than send a copy of your evidence to the Railway Commission, but I should say it was quite within the power of your district to write a letter to the Secretary of the Railway Commission and tell him what you are now stating here because we really cannot help you.

37104. Sir JOHN COLLIER.—You were better treated when there was some boat accommodation, and therefore, some competition?—Yes.

37105. Did that cease when the pier fell into ruin?—Yes.

37106. Was that the cause of the steamer coming to run?—It was.

37107. Do you suggest that if that pier was restored that the steamer would be put on again?—I have every reason to suppose that it would be put on, or some enterprising person would put on a steamer. In fact the coasting steamer that passes here at present would call if there was accommodation.

37108. The steamer was taken off because there was no pier accommodation?—Yes.

37109. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I understand the reason you put this matter of high charges for freight before the Commission is that anything the Commission could do to improve transit would be well done?—Yes.

Mr. PATRICK MCCORMICK examined.

37110. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?—At Agassella, in the Ballycastle Union.

37111. You are a farmer?—Yes; in Cushleake.

37112. What is the extent of your holding?—Thirty acres and eighteen acres. The present rent is £7 2s. and 6s. 10d., and the valuation is £11 and £8 2s.

37113a.—Your rent is a good deal below the valuation?—It is.

37113b. Mr. BRYCE.—Is that a judicial rent?—Yes, a second best rent. Cushleake is on the north coast of the County Antrim, and runs along it for about seven miles. It contains twenty-three townlands, and constitutes an electoral division in the Ballycastle Rural District. Its area is 3,680a. 0c. 23p. Poor Law valuation, £1,275 11s., of which £663 15s. is land, and £312 15s. other improvements. The population is 421. The district is mountainous, the upper portion being devoted to sheep-farming, and the lower to cultivation. The cliffs all along the coast are from 150 to 200 feet high, and are precipitous. The land under the plough is, in many places, so steep that when being harrowed a rope has to be attached to the harrow to keep it from swinging around below the horses, and nearly all ploughing is done single furrow—that is, ploughing all one way. Needless to say a reaping or mowing machine cannot be used on it, and the difficulty of manuring and taking off the crop is exceedingly great, being both laborious and expensive. It suffers very much from storms, grain being often very badly shaken. It is, on an average, about nine miles from Ballycastle, which is the nearest railway station. It is the same distance from Cushendall, and is in the Cushendall Dispensary District. Though the holdings are larger, and the population smaller than in the district already mentioned as congested, the people are in as much need of a helping hand from a sympathetic Department like the Congress District

Board as they are anywhere. They are doggedly sticking to the land, cultivating and tending for its support for their families, under circumstances that no stranger to the locality could be induced under any circumstances to undertake. Even those people themselves are getting tired of it, and as their families grow up none are inclined to stay and put in lives such as their parents did. These holdings, though large enough to be economic are situated in such a remote district, and labour under so many natural disadvantages, that no one has been able to gather around him sufficient capital to justify him in venturing to take advantage of the cattle scheme of the Department of Agriculture. None of them has a sufficiently large stock of cows that a bull would be bought for private use only, and farmers in nearly all the poor districts in Ireland will not pay for the service of bulls. They often suffer more from the attention of these animals than from a want of them, so that it would be an injudicious act for any farmer in Cushleake to invest thirty or forty pounds in a premium bull. A Galloway bull they don't want because though they breed good stone, the hollow bred from them rarely turn out good cows. What would suit the requirements best the Department of Agriculture does not encourage. They recommend pure breeds as sires. And they are right. But to the loss of rules there is an exception. The animal that would suit here, and give the most satisfactory results, would be a cross-bred bull out of a good cow of mixed blood and a pure-bred short-horn of a milking strain. The animal should be short-legged, well haired, with good bones, and of a robust constitution, and not pampers. Mountain farmers would be all anxious for such an animal to be placed in their districts. The result would be, all the bull calves would be castrated and the rubbishy world of

Mr. Patrick McCormick.

May 23, 1907.

Mr. Patrick
McCormick.

hulls so common in those districts would disappear. With mountain stores thus improved and lowland calves bred from shortboms the store stock put on the English market would be more highly appreciated than they are now, and it would enable us to retain the monopoly we now have of the store cattle trade of Great Britain, and might go a long way towards removing the craving English, Irish and Scotch traders have for Canadian stores. If these are admitted, away goes the small farmer that wrings a support from the mountain edges. His main source of income, the main source of income of nearly all the small farmers of Antrim, is from the sale of their stores. Remove that, and as a natural consequence they must go. It is useless to preach to the people that in the interest of the nation and in their own interests it is desirable they should live on the land, if on the other hand you say to the Canadians, the Argentine people, and all countries in Europe and elsewhere as well, we have a good market for your stores, they are better bred and of larger size than our own and they can be put more cheaply on the market than we can rear them, send them in in thousands and thus glut the poor Irish farmer's market. But one result can follow. Ireland will, despite replanting, despite every effort that can be made by the inequality of the Congested Districts Board or any other Board, become a series of ranches. The fattening lands will soon, but looking at them broadly in the light of the country's prosperity what are they but horseless wastes. Sheep here are nearly all of the black-face breed and are of fair quality. The introduction of new blood of good type would have beneficial results. The horse-breeding schemes of the Department have not been a success in Cushleale. The introduction of thoroughbreds to improve the pony stock has been tried, and I do not think it has been very successful. A hackney, one of a very good class, was, with the approval of the Department of Agriculture bought and kept at Cushleale for a season, and afterwards disposed of by orders of the Department, though the Agricultural Committee was in favour of keeping him on. The influence of South of Ireland breeders, who are on the Advisory Committee of the Department, are very properly in favour of encouraging the breeding of horses for which Ireland is famous, and they are able to force their views on the Department against the wishes of a considerable minority from the north who have found hackney breeding to pay them well. Where a considerable section of a community of farmers is in favour of a line of procedure suitable to their circumstances, it is unfair for the Department to ignore them even at the request of the majority of the Advisory Committee. As reasonable, educated, hard-headed men of the world, knowing from practical experience the wants and wishes of the districts in which they live, the desire of a great public department, which should live with and for the people, should be to bring that minority with them and not treat them autocratically. The ordinary scheme for horse-breeding of the Department is anomalous. The Department insists that the owners of sires whose usual terms are £1 for a foal (normally £20) must be paid by the Agricultural Committee £2 for the chance of a foal. The mares in Cushleale are too small to be selected, and most of them are too big to be classed as ponies and come in under the Cushleale pony scheme. So that between the two they are left out in the cold. Poultry are kept in fair numbers, but their produce cannot be put to the best advantage on the market. There is just the one road running through the district, and it is an exceedingly bad one. The gradient is very steep in many places. A section of it would pass for a switch-back railway. Five cwt. is considered a good load for any horse over it, and even with that he soon tires. Carting produce to market or taking supplies from it is a serious undertaking. Beans and flax used to be grown extensively in it, but the farmer dropped out of cultivation on account of the fall in price and the persistent attacks, year after year, of the Bean aphid, and the latter, mainly owing to the low price it brought on the market. Now, when the price of yarn has so much increased one would think the spinner would share with the farmer and give him a better price for the fibre. But, no. He says he had his bean years and lately he has had a few fat ones and wants to store up for a rainy day. But he should allow a little more than a bare subsistence

allowance to the poor farmer who has had so many difficulties to contend with, among them being the scarcity and expense of labour. The latter would be a small item and willingly met if prices were good. If the district is recommended to be scheduled as a congested district, as I hope it will, the people will be led to work most enthusiastically with the Board's officers, and I would respectfully recommend that whatever is done the people should be taking into confidence and their wishes as far as possible respected. Many a well-intentioned work in the hands of strangers has been rendered fruitless in this country by working over the heads of the people, whose views were not thought worthy of being considered. We were not thought worthy of being considered. We were merely the poor, ignorant Irish. But we have our feelings and we have felt all these things and can't forget them. The day is fast passing away, however, when they were freely used. I hope it will soon be gone, and that a harmonious blending of the new will come, when each can see something in the other to admire and agree to bury the rest. In the matter of taxation, Cushleale has much to complain of. In the first place they are, against the wishes of the majority of the Rural District Councils of the County and of the County Council, forced into a scheme of main roads, by which the district loses about £200 a year. The Local Government Board over-ruled all and forces Cushleale to contribute towards the upkeep of roads around the City of Belfast, many of which cost £1 per perch to maintain, while their only cost a few shillings. Again, the Local Government Board has included Cushleale in the area of charge for sanitary expenses at Cushleale, which will cost these poor people 4s. in the pound for thirty-five years. This they did too against the wishes of the local council. It affords another instance of how Local Government in Ireland is working.

37113. Mr. O'KELLY.—Who introduced the thoroughbreds that are not successful?—The men on the Committee of the Department of Agriculture.

37114. Was it the Committee or the Department or both?—I think it was the Committee of Agriculture.

37115. In what way did the animals fail?—They were too light in the bone for the uses of Cushleale.

37116. Do you think they were adapted to other portions of the country?—They might be for good level land and good grass when they could be raised.

37117. Were the circumstances of Cushleale known to the committee?—I suppose they were, because Cushleale is a small place.

37118. Was there a difference between the local Committee and the Department in regard to hackneys?—I think there was. I think the Agricultural Committee was in favour of keeping the horse, but it was taken away.

37119. What was the attitude of the Department?—I don't know.

37120. Mr. BRYCE.—When do the farmers generally sell their stores?—Some sell them after two years.

37121. Do they keep them inside in the winter season?—Yes.

37122. And feed them on green crops?—Yes. They could not be kept outside in the winter time in Cushleale.

37123. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—What do they feed them on?—Turnips and green crops.

37124. Mr. BRYCE.—What proportion of your crops have you?—I have not more than six acres across altogether. All the rest is pasture land.

37125. How many cows have you?—Three.

37127. How many horses?—One.

37128. How many sheep?—A little over fifty.

37129. You have them on the mountains in common with other farmers?—Yes.

37130. Have you a head for them?—There is no head on the mountains. We mark the sheep.

37131. What proportion of your young stock do you sell at six months and what proportion at two years?—I would sell calves at six months. I would keep them for two years if I could.

37132. Is that done all over the district?—Yes.

37133. Where do you sell them?—At the fairs.

37134. What fairs?—Cushleale, Cusheen, Goss, and Waterford.

37135. Mr. BRYCE.—Where do they go when they are bought?—To Ballymena, principally. They also go to Ballycastle, Larne, and Ballymore.

37136. Do they fatten them or send them to Scotland and England, and sell them at once?—I expect they send them away straight.

37137. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—You only till six acres you say?—Yes.

37138. Has the other part of your holding ever been tilled?—No. It is impossible. It is covered with rocks and heather, and is very bad pasture land.

37139-40. You keep three cows regularly?—Mostly; three one-year-olds.

37141. How does it happen you have not a two-year-old?—We often change our cows, and very often they won't go very well with us.

37142. Do you find it pays you better to keep your stock until two years old?—I don't think we could get a market for them as yearlings. They are a small class of cattle.

37143. Do you mean to say that there is no market here for yearlings?—It is not customary to take them out as yearlings.

37144. Is there a market for calves?—I don't think so.

37145. You say there is not a market for yearlings?—This time of the year there might be.

37146. Does it pay you better to keep your young stock until two years old or to sell them when they are one year old?—I think it would, because they are hardier and better able to stand the weather.

37147. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What are you expected to sell an average good two year old heifer for?—About £5.

37148. What would you expect to get for a fair average yearling?—About £3.

37149. That is a difference of £2 set off against feeding for the year?—Yes. The people are getting tired of working their farms.

37150. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—Are any of them leaving the farms?—Yes, or else they are selling them.

37151. What does the tenant get if he gives up his holding, for his interest?—The last sale I remember was a small farm which sold for £120. I think it was about 25 years.

37152. How do you account for the people getting tired of trying to live on the land if we have people paying £120 for a 66 holding?—The man who has bought the place I refer to, has other places, and he always adds to his grazing if he can. He does not intend to labour the land at all.

37153. Was it alongside another holding?—Yes.

37154. Then it was an enlargement of his own holding?—Yes.

37155. What because of the party who sold the land?—The land belonged to a widow woman.

Mr. JOHN O'BOYLE examined.

37157. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You reside at Carnlough, Glenties?—Yes. I occupy, in common with others, 140 acres of grazing. About 84 would be mine. The county used to be through it, and I want you to say that you should allow me my own, and I would pay the expense.

37158. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—Have you spoken to the landlord or the agent?—The landlord will liberate me.

37159. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The other holders don't agree, I suppose, to your request?—No.

Mr. BERNARD M'ALEER examined.

37162. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You reside near Ballycastle?—Yes.

37163. You are also on the local committee?—I am one of the District Councillors. The point I want to give evidence upon is the necessity for a road, and also the loss in the price of pork for want of transit facilities to market.

37164. Let us take them one at a time—where do you want the road?—From Ballycastle to Malinbeg. It would benefit eighteen tenants. The people are paying rates, and there is no road except a road on which a horse could be led. It is the very best of land, and there is not more than half tillage on it; there would be if it were properly developed.

37165. What is the length of the road?—About a mile and a half.

37166. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What benefits would the road confer on the tenants?—They would be able to till their land and generally to do better.

37156. Was she sold off?—No; her children all left.

37157. Did she emigrate?—No. She is living in the Glens.

37158. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—With reference to the upland of your farm, you told us it could not be tilled. Is the soil among the rocks a bog soil or clay soil?—Clay.

37159. Would the fact that you have that upland on your six acres account for your keeping your stock for two years instead of selling them when they are a year old? If you had not that rough ground you could not keep them?—No.

37160. Summer or winter that rough ground always helps to feed them?—Yes.

37161. Apparently wherever the soil is ploughed the land is turned down about half a foot?—Yes.

37162. Therefore it comes to this that after a certain number of years all the clay will be at the foot of the field?—Yes. We are doing our best to keep it up.

37163. Agriculture under these circumstances is very difficult?—Yes.

37164. Mr. O'Kenny.—Have you got main roads and minor roads?—We have minor roads.

37165. Have you got any main road in Cushleek?—No.

37166. What was the system with regard to the main road in the Grand Jury times?—I think the people had only to pay what the district cost.

37167. You say 4d. has been added to your rates for sanitary expenses in Cushleek?—Yes.

37168. What is the sanitary expenditure?—For the sewerage of Cushleek.

37169. It was done against the wishes of the local Council?—Yes.

37170. Was there a Local Government Board Inquiry?—Yes, and all the districts outside Cushleek signed a memorial and sent it to the Local Government Board.

37171. Did you appear before the Inspector?—Yes.

37172. And gave evidence?—Yes.

37173. What did the scheme cost?—£250 for the sewerage scheme.

37174. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Did you say a road was very much required at Cushleek?—Yes.

37175. Do you mean a new road, or that the old one should be repaired?—I am afraid it would require to be a new one.

37176. Would it follow a different route from the present one?—It would go a little bit, but very little.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I am afraid that is a difficulty. It is quite out of my power to help you.

37180. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—Do you hold the land as grazing?—Yes.

37181. Does it appear on your lease that you are entitled to fifty-four acres, or is it that you have grazing rights?—Grazing rights.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I am sorry, but I am afraid we cannot help you.

They have now, for instance, to take their produce and goods on their backs to market.

37186. Is there any question of turbary?—A great many of them carry turf home.

37187. Sir JOHN COLOMAN.—Have the Rural District Council recommended the road?—They have not.

37188. Have you tried to get them to agree to make it?—No. I think if the Commission would assist this district the Council would take it up.

37189. If you have not brought it before the Council you don't know whether they would give anything at all to the road or not?—I cannot say.

37190. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Perhaps your point is that if any public body was got to advance a portion of the expense you would have much better hope in approaching the Rural District Council for the money?—That is my point.

37191. Mr. O'Kenny.—Have these eighteen families no road from the house into the village?—No.

May 25, 1897.
Mr. Bernard
Wasky.

37192. Where do they leave their carts?—On the public road.
37193. How far from the houses?—About half a mile.
37194. These people pay for all the other roads over the county?—Yes.
37195. And for the sanitary works in Cusheadall?—Yes. It is chargeable on the dispensary district, and includes the four electoral divisions of Red Bay, Glendun, Cusheadall and Cushead.
37196. Was the County Surveyor approached on the matter?—The District Surveyor is present.
37197. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—This Commission cannot do anything until the question is raised by the District Council. What is the next point you have for the Commission?—I should like to revive some of the industries, such as weaving.
37198. I am afraid a factory cannot be started unless there is a chance of it being self-supporting?—I

understood you were empowered to give assistance in that direction.

37199. We have no power. Don't suppose that we have?—It would be a good thing for the district.
37200. Why did it fail before?—That is a long time ago.

37201. You think it ought to get another trial?—Yes. I should also like to point out the loss the farmers of the district incur owing to the difficulty of transit in the matter of butter, pork, and other articles. The prices are decreasing for want of buyers.

37202. That point has been brought before us several times. You want some increased traffic facilities?—Yes.

37203. That resolves itself into roads again?—Yes, roads and railroads. We have had the question of railroads thoroughly thrashed out.

Mr. T. J. O'NEILL examined.

Mr. T. J.
O'Neill.

37204. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are a civil engineer residing in Ballycastle?—Yes.
37205. Do you come here on your own account, or do you represent any committee?—I was asked by the committee to come here and to give evidence about the present road in Cusheadall, and to suggest the making of a new road. The present road is a very poor one. It is a switchback road. Some of the gradients are as steep as 1 in 5 and 1 in 7. In some places it is insecurely fenced and dangerous to the public. A new road could be made from Cusheadall to a point beyond Moira Hill. The steepest gradient would be 1 in 22. It is about seven miles in length.
37206. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—How the matter been brought before the District Council?—No.
37207. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—What would the road cost?—£6,000.
37208. Can you explain why a matter of that kind has not been brought before the Council by some one if it is of such importance to the people of the county?—I am afraid they would have some trouble in getting the Council to pass such a large sum without some assistance. The Council would hardly go in for such a large expenditure.
37209. Was the committee under the impression that the present Commission could recommend grants or things like that?—That was the idea.
37210. Have any of them read the terms of this Commission published in the papers, which show that it lies entirely beyond our province?—I suppose it does except you get further power.

37211. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Perhaps your view was this, that if this work was executed it would do a great deal to relieve the congestion of the area?—Yes.

37212. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—How many people would it benefit?—About 500 people.

37213. Do you mean to say that in a county like Antrim these people never brought such an important scheme before the only body in the county who could help them?—It was never brought before the Council by my knowledge.

37214. Mr. O'NEILL.—The total expenditure in the union and district work in this union for one year is about £6,000?—Yes.

37215. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The total number of people directly interested is between 500 and 600, and the total cost of the road would be £6,000?—It would be a surface road. There would be no heavy cutting.

37216. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—It follows the coast. It follows the contour of the ground.

37217. Mr. O'NEILL.—Don't you think £6,000 is a road rather high?—Not for a new road.

37218. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The ordinary road would not cost £900 a mile?—It would.

37219. Sir JOHN COLEMAN.—Who proposes this suggested plan?—The Cusheadall people here.

37220. Has that been under the consideration of the local authorities?—It was never applied for. It is their intention that if the present railway was extended down the old line, it would be brought near here along the coast (indicates on map) to Cusheadall.

Mr. ALEXANDER McCLOSKEY examined.

Mr. Alexander
McCloskey.

37221. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?—At Labetarish, Cusheadall.
37222. Do you represent any local authority?—I came on my own account and to represent the dispensary district.
37223. Are you a farmer?—Yes, at Labetarish, about two miles from here. I have thirty-two statute acres, my rent is £7 10s., and my valuation is £12 on land, and £2 10s. on buildings.
37224. What are the points that you wish to bring before us?—The inconvenience of markets is the principal thing, the way we are situated here for want of accommodation. I think that you have got enough of evidence on that already.
37225. You mean to support the evidence that we have already received?—Yes.
37226. Is there any particular road that you support?—Yes. We support the road through the townland of Fallowmacrilly.
37227. Is that the one we have just heard explained?—Yes. There are parties living there with small holdings, but the land is of very fair texture; but they are very badly handicapped for want of a road—these houses are half a mile from a road.
37228. You are speaking now of the short road and not the seven mile road?—The seven mile road is as necessary, I believe, as the shorter.

37229. But it is the one and a half mile road that you are particularly interested in?—Yes.

37230. The next point is market?—The nearest market is Ballymena, which is nearly twenty miles away, and there is great inconvenience in getting produce to Ballymena.

37231. Your object is to support the evidence given on those points?—Yes. Then with reference to the purchase of land, two townlands were purchased in 1820 and 1821, and three years ago, Tashilly and Grog at twenty-four years' purchase of second term judicial rents.

37232. Were they purchased under the 1820 Act?—Yes.

37233. What is your point—that they paid so much for them?—I think they paid enough for them, and perhaps too much.

37234. What do you want done about it?—I understood you wanted to know what lands were sold in this locality. On the estate I live on, the Glenties estate, the landlord, Captain Dixon, has proposed to sell on such terms as would give the tenant a reduction of 4s. in the £. The tenant was a man that they would take it on such terms as would give them a reduction of 4s. 6d. in the £. Up to the present this has not been accepted. There is only a difference of sixpence between them.

37235. How many tenants are there?—I suppose that there must be thirty or 100.

37236. What are the average holdings?—I believe they would average about £10 valuation.

37237. Are there any very small ones among them?—Yes, and some large ones too.

37238. What size are the smallest?—Some are not more than six acres. That is the whole of their holdings, but they are only a few. Many of them have a large amount of mountain attached.

37239. Mr. BAKER.—Have you mountain attached to your holding?—Portion of it is mountain, but I have no mountain in common along with my thirty-two acres.

37240. On your estate is it the custom to keep cattle until they are two years old?—We sell at all ages, whenever we think we can get a profit, sometimes at a year, sometimes two years, and sometimes at three years' old.

37241. I ask the question because we have had a great deal of evidence in other places to the effect that it would not do at all to sell cattle at two years' old, and that the farmer would lose if he did not sell the calf to the grazier at the end of a year or six months, and we desire to have information as to what is the custom here with regard to this particular point?

Mr. JOHN McCAMBRIDGE examined.

37251. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?—At Loney, two miles from Cusheadall. I have a farm of twenty-six acres, statute. The rent is £24 4s. and the valuation is £20 5s., including buildings.

37252. Mr. BAKER.—How much of your holding is in tillage?—We could till all.

37253. Do you?—We do, occasionally, in the rotation of crops; with the exception of some that you could not till—about an acre or so.

37254. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What particular points do you wish to bring before us?—The loss to the farmers through not having a railway to Cusheadall, and a proper harbour. Perhaps you have got sufficient evidence on that point.

37255. You have heard all the evidence which was given?—Yes. It is from the farmers' point of view that I wish to speak. The small farmer loses more proportionately than the large farmer does by reason of his not having a market for his produce. There is no flax market here, and no butter market.

37256. What do you do with the butter?—We have to go to Ballymena, and the same with the flax. We lose two days.

37257. Do you grow flax?—We grow some flax.

37258. Do you consider it better to cart these articles or to bring them by cart to the nearest railway station here?—We consider it better to bring them by cart, because if we sent them on we would have to employ a cartier in Ballymena to take them to market.

37259. I am afraid you would have to do that still even if the railway was extended?—Yes, but my point is we would have a market here. We would have buyers coming if there was a railway to the town and a market for butter and flax.

37260. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—At all events, the fact that you cart these goods to Ballymena indicates that the existing railway is of no service?—It is of no service.

37261. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That particular railway which comes in where the old pier is is the railway you support?—Yes.

37262. Your case is, that spending as a small farmer, you feel the want of it very much?—Yes.

37263. Is the butter which you carry down to Ballymena made at the creamery?—No; we have to make it in kits. We have no creamery here at all, and no dairy. The farmers just make it themselves.

37264. How many cows have you got?—We keep four cows.

37265. How often can you churn?—In the summer time we churn twice a week.

37266. What do you get for your butter in an ordinary year?—About eight pence a lb., a good part of the year, but sometimes it is as high as ten pence.

37267. Although you only churn twice a week?—Yes. We have to put it in kits; if we could sell it fresh we could get more.

—My experience is that they generally keep them until they are aged between two and three years' old.

37242. You keep them in during winter?—Yes.

37243. And feed them on greens?—Hay, straw, turnips, and cabbage, are the principal support for young cattle.

37244. Up to what age?—Until they are sold.

37245. Do you give them any turnips in the winter?

—Very few get turnips.

37246. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—They don't go in for mangels?—Very little.

37247. Mr. BAKER.—Would not it pay you better to sell the calf at six months in the autumn to graziers or some people who would take them over to Scotland and feed them up rather than keep them?—We never sold any at six months. We would get a small price at that age. In a great many cases we would not get a merchant at all for them.

37248. Sir JOHN COLSON.—You must keep some cattle for the purpose of making mutton?—Certainly.

37249. The custom here, as elsewhere, is to sell when you can make the best profit?—Just so.

37250. That means that if there was a good price for a yearling you would sell, and if there was a bad price you would hold on?—Just so.

37268. Sir JOHN COLSON.—You sell the butter and send it away in boxes?—Yes. If we had a market to sell it fresh we could get more; but we have no market for fresh butter. And if the Caphlake road was made I believe that owing to the development of the tourist traffic we would have a market for fresh butter, and be gainers in that way.

37269. What place would tourists stop at that they do not reach at present?—They would come more to Cusheadall than they do now, because they have to cross the mountains at present.

37270. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do a great many come to Ballycastle?—A great many go to Ballycastle on account of the town that do not come here.

37271. Where do the tourists who don't come here stop at present?—A great many go to Ballycastle and Portrush, and don't stop here. Only a few come here for want of railway facilities. If we had this road we would have a great many more tourists than we have.

37272. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is there much good scenery along the proposed road?—Yes; a great deal.

37273. Mr. BAKER.—How would you get from Ballycastle?—It catches on the road from Ballycastle.

37274. Before you get to the end of the journey from Ballycastle to Malinbeg Bay you would have a very steep hill?—There is a great deal of good scenery between this and Caphlake.

37275. That I quite agree with; but you would have to go out and come back again?—Yes.

37276. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is your idea of the proper age at which to sell your stock?—In this country, as a rule, they are not fed properly to sell as yearlings.

37277. They grow slowly?—Yes. I know other parts of the country on the other side of the mountains where they can sell them to better advantage as yearlings, because they are better fed, and they cannot grow such good crops to feed them here.

37278. Therefore they keep them as long as they can?—Yes.

37279. Do they ever keep them as long as three years?—Some do who have grazing lands, but we don't; we sell them as two-year-olds.

37280. What would you expect to get for a yearling and what for a two-year-old?—Yearlings here generally would be about £3 10s.

37281. And two-year-olds?—You might get £6, if very often sold them for £5.

37282. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—But what you call a two-year-old is not two years old. It is six quarters?—It is six quarters. That goes for £5 or £6.

37283. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You think that the difference pays?—Yes. It is the summer season. We have grass at that time.

37284. Sir JOHN COLSON.—If you cannot properly feed the calf in the summer season, do you ever have a

May 20, 1903.

Mr. Alexander

McCoy

May 22, 1907.
Mr. John
McGarrahy.

good beast at all!—We depend more on the grass feeding than the horse feeding. A calf to be sold as a yearling wants to be fed during the winter. We cannot grow turnips easily.

37285. Is not it much easier to turn out the calf well than the two-year-old?—The meaning of keeping them is that they are not fit for the market as yearlings. They improve on the grass, and in our case we don't keep them the second winter at all. We sell them when they are six quarters.

37286. As a small holder in the district you find you cannot keep them longer?—Yes.

37287. Therefore you are obliged to part with them then?—Yes.

37288. The prosperity of the small holder again largely depends on the price he can get for his yearling or eighteen months old beast, which he cannot keep and is obliged to part with; is that so?—Yes.

37289. If you destroy the market for the yearlings and two-year-olds, do you think it would very much injure the small holders?—It would enormously.

Mr. HUGH DE LORRY examined.

Mr. Hugh
De Lorry.

37290. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You reside at Cashendall?—Yes.

37291. Are you a farmer?—No. I am here to tell you of the difficulty that we experience in letting houses here during the summer months owing to the poor travelling facilities that we have in Cashendall.

37292. You mean letting houses to tourists?—Business men in Belfast come to the seaside and take their wives and families away. In other places they generally go up on Monday morning and come down on Saturday night. There is no such thing here at all, for the simple reason that people cannot come here. A gentleman would have to leave here at half-past five in the morning and arrive in Ballymena at nine o'clock. He would wait there an hour, and arrive at Belfast at eleven o'clock. That does not suit business men, and they find they cannot come here. In Ballycastle thirty years ago I remember there was not a house on the quay road built the whole way down. It is since the advent of the railway that all

37290. Mr. O'NEILL.—What is your market for your yearlings?—They are bought by Ballymena buyers at Cashendall. I am speaking now of the six-quarters or one-and-a-half-year-olds.

37291. What do the Ballymena men do with them?—I think that they sell them again to graziers or other people. It is generally dealers buy them.

37292. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You don't know whether they go over to England or Scotland?—They don't send one and a half year olds. I think the dealers generally sell them to farmers in different parts of the country around Ballymena. I think they don't ship any at that age.

37293. Mr. BURTON.—You don't know what they do with them?—I do not, of course.

37294. Some previous witness said that they keep the cattle for three years, and that this is quite general in the district?—Those people who have rough land for grazing. I have no such lands, and would have to send them out to grass if I kept them.

37295. So you find it an advantage to sell them at eighteen months?—Yes.

the houses have been built there. Ballycastle was at that time just in as poor a way as Cashendall.

37296. You then merely come to support the evidence which we have had in favour of carrying on the line from Glenariff to Cashendall?—Yes.

37297. You want to read the evidence from a different point of view, and to say that you believe that the line would develop the letting and building of houses?—Yes. There are twenty houses vacant at present, and are likely to remain so the greater part of the summer.

37298. These houses must have been built when there was no railroad?—Within the last few years there have been some houses built. It was done by Sir Daniel Dixon. At that time there was an agitation got up here to have the railway. When the Midland Railway came to this country it was thought that they were going to do a lot of things; and they told us they would do nothing.

Captain JAMES McNEIL examined.

Captain James
McNeil.

37299. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?—At Farnham, Glenariff.

37300. What interest do you represent?—I came here to support Mr. Dobbs's statement as to the over-flowing of the Glenariff River. I hold land and live there. I have thirty-six acres in one holding and fifteen in another. The rent of the first is £27 12s. and of the second £8 12s., and the valuations are £44 and £15 10s.

37301. It is chiefly a question of drainage with you?—Yes. Previously there was a new river cut which helped the drainage of the level land considerably. Of recent years it has silted up, and the sides are all covered with brushwood and rubbish like that, which, with the silting up of the bottom of the river, left no room for the water to flow.

37302. Who made the drain?—I believe that it was the Government through some landlord scheme.

37303. No arrangement was made for keeping it cleared out?—None.

37304. The tenants who require it did not think it worth their while?—They thought they had plenty to do managing their little holdings. It became worse from year to year, and got a rather big item to work at.

37305. You would like to see that cleared out?—It would be a great matter. It is leaving it as bad as any part of a congested district with the way it is in now.

37306. Do you consider that the tenants would be likely to let it go back again?—I think it would be wise to make some provision in the way of appointing a man to keep it clear.

37307. You suggest, I suppose, a grant of public money for that?—If that could be done.

37308. First to make the drain?—To clean it out and raise the banks.

37309. If it was cleared out and the banks were raised, don't you think it would be a fair thing to

require the people who would profit by it to keep it clear, or to give some power to raise them for it?—Certainly they should pay a little towards it. Of course I would be glad to recommend that.

37310. How many tenants do you suppose would profit by that?—About thirty-six, and on the best calculation I would say that they lose on an average £300 a year from this cause. It affects their only land, which is the principal part of their holding. Their holdings contain generally from fifteen to eighteen acres, of which, say, ten are arable, and of that ten there may be seven which are flooded once or twice in the year, leaving only three that they can say are dry and safe.

37311. What do you do with your own land?—I grass it and keep it for meadow. On each side of the river there is a side-drain. If that was cut out it would work the drainage for all the other level land. The river bed is silted up and there is no outlet for the side-drain.

37312. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is the land that is flooded good land?—Very good land.

37313. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—If there is an average yearly loss of nearly £10 to the tenants, surely it was worth their while to spend a couple of pounds a year keeping the drain in order. However, the really came here to support the evidence of Mr. Dobbs that this would be a very useful work there?—There is nothing better for the tenants of Glenariff than that. It is relative to them as it is.

Mr. BURTON.—What is it estimated to cost?

Mr. O'NEILL.—It would cost about £1,000.

37314. Sir JOHN CORRY.—I understood you to say that the drain was made by the landlord?—Partly by the landlord and partly by the tenants. I am not able to give evidence on that.

37315. Were you there in 1861?—No; I came down in 1899.

37316. You don't know whether this drain was built

in order until the Act of 1881.—The slide drains is cleaned out occasionally by the tenants now, but the river is the biggest item. It is too much for the tenants to undertake. On account of the river bed being silted up it renders their work useless.

37330. Is there anyone here who can say whether this work was carried out by the landlord at his own cost or with money borrowed from the Board of Works, the tenants undertaking to pay a portion of the outlay?

Mr. Debbie.—I don't remember the final award mentioning that the tenants paid any part of it. The landlords expended £3,500 in the year 1882, which was borrowed from the Board of Works, was repayable in thirty-five years, and was repaid by the landlords. They expended about £400 in 1885. Nothing has been done since. The landlords refuse to do anything, except Mrs. Debbie who has land herself. All the other landlords object to do anything, because they say that under the existing land laws they have no reason to spend money.

37332. Sir JAMES COLSON.—Do you know at all

whether the tenants were expected to keep the frontage of the drainages free?

Mr. Debbie.—No. There should have been a drainage board appointed, but it was never done, and the thing was allowed to lapse.

37333. Sir JAMES COLSON.—Under the Land Act of 1882 the landlords cannot see their way to expend money on drainages. Therefore some authority is wanted to exercise the powers that the landlords used to exercise?

Mr. Debbie.—Yes. The case was made before the Arterial Drainage Commission.

37334. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say that the tenants were not made liable for any part of the drainage loan?

Mr. Debbie.—I assume that it made a difference to the tenants' rents if they got their holdings improved. At that time they could raise the rent whenever they liked. I have no evidence whether they did or not.

37335. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—All the evidence with reference to this case was made before the Drainage Commission?

Mr. Debbie.—It was.

May 25, 1892.

Mr. S. H. Debbie.

Mr. JAMES GRAHAM EXAMINED.

37336. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?—At Clonrea, Glencariff. I hold thirty acres. The rent is £82 and the valuation £31 12s.

37337. What is the point that you wish to bring before the Commission?—The particular point is about the injury caused by the flooding of the river.

37338. You support the evidence which we have just heard?—Yes. About thirty-six people's holdings are injured, and there is about £200 worth of loss every year.

37339. Are you one of the tenants injured?—Yes. It would take about £1,000 to set the drainage right.

37340. If that were done and if the tenants won't keep the drains open it would go back again?—I would say appoint a man, and let him be paid to keep the whole thing clear, river and all.

37341. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would you put something on the tenants for that?—I would have a rate and let the tenants pay.

37342. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Let the rate for the maintenance of the river be struck by the District Council, but let it be confined to the area that benefits by the treatment?—Yes.

37343. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Or would not

another way of doing it be that the tenants benefiting by the work would be able to pay a little addition either to their rents or their purchase instalments?—Certainly they would.

37344. Suppose that the property were sold to the tenants, then before the vesting order was made would not it be a good bargain for the tenants to agree to a small increase in their instalments in view of the drainage?—Yes. If it remained for a few years more without attention the place would be no use.

37345. Sir JAMES COLSON.—Were you these thirty years ago?—I was then twenty-eight years ago.

37346. Was the drain in pretty good order then?—It was.

37347. It was during the last twenty-eight years it has gone wrong?—About eighteen years ago it went wrong and it never worked properly since.

37348. How did that happen?—There was a large flood and there was a lot of cutting taken out for making walls, and some of the land commenced to go away.

37349. Before that was there anything done every year by anybody to keep it clear?—I could not say that there was anything.

Mr. James Graham.

Mr. DENIS BLACK EXAMINED

37340. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You reside at Ballinacree, Glendun, and are a farmer?—Yes. I have fifty-four acres. My rent is £18 10s. and the valuation is £28 12s.

37341. What are the particular points as to which you wish to give evidence?—I have been appointed by a committee of ratepayers of the Glendun electoral division to come here and represent a few facts on their behalf. I am a member of the Rural District Council and represent the division, which contains twenty-three townlands. There are sixty-eight holdings on these twenty-three townlands. Of these sixty-eight there are twenty-seven less than 25, and thirty of much less than 25.

37342. That is 57 out of 68 which are under £10?—Yes. The proportion of land fit for cultivation in this division is very small. At present there are only 225 acres under cultivation, or an average of little more than three acres per holding. I have it here from common information that 70 acres have gone out of cultivation, or, roughly speaking, about an acre to each holding within the past six years. The land in the division is generally very unfruitful, the greater part being fit only for grazing sheep. There are great difficulties in cultivating this land. A great deal of it has to be worked with spade labour. A large part of the acreage in this division is unfenced mountain, joint grazing. There is a great loss of sheep on these mountains in proportion to the number.

37343. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—From what cause?—Various causes. For instance, they die up

there in winter unless you can send them away to graze elsewhere.

37344. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—They are black-faced?—They are black-faced. I wish to point out that there are fifteen families with no road accommodation, except an old path.

37345. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Have you anything to suggest with regard to these people under 25 valuations?—I know of no local remedy. I merely come here to suggest the smallness of the holdings and the position of the people up there.

37346. There is no grass land near that might be used for the enlargement of these holdings?—There is one large farm near Osheshaun and another near Chubardall. The first is about 100 acres, and I could not say the size of the second.

37347. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Do you think it would be possible by a scheme of enlargement of holdings to bring these holdings up to an economic standard?—Yes.

37348. That is the only remedy you could suggest?—They might be helped in other ways.

37349. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—In what other ways do you suggest?—I do not come here to suggest remedies, but merely to draw your attention to the state of affairs up there. There are fifteen families along the slopes of these mountains on the north side of the glen with no road accommodation except an old path. They cannot cart anything on that side. They have no bridge over the river, and we have instances of men who have been carried away by the floods.

Mr. Denis Black.

May 25, 1907

Mr. Denis
Black.

37359. The whole effect of your evidence is to bring before the Commission the poor condition of the people in the district to which you refer—Quite so.

37361. But you don't desire to make any particular

recommendation except as to the improvement of the roads?—I am not in a position to go into those things. I merely draw your attention to the matter.

Mr. PATRICK MURRAY examined.

Mr. Patrick
Murray.

37362. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?
—Maglea Hill, Glendun.

37363. Are you a farmer?—Yes. I have seventy acres, with a rent of £5 4s. 6d., and a valuation of £10 5s.

37364. I am afraid from your rent that your land is very poor land?—About the worst in Ireland.

37365. What are the particular points to which you wish to refer?—The poor state of the district. I think it is about the poorest in Ireland. I have been through a great part of Ireland myself, and can solemnly say that there is no poorer district in all Ireland than the Glens of Antrim.

37366. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—Were you in Connemara?—I was.

37367. And West Donegal?—Yes.

37368. You think that this place is worse than there?—I do. I am certain of it. They have good grazing there beside what is here.

37369. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are really supporting the evidence which has been given by other witnesses from the same district?—Yes.

37370. Have you any particular suggestion which you think might improve matters, or do you merely want to call the attention of the Commissioners to how bad things are?—We would like to get a road run through the south-east side of the Glen, where there is no road at all. There is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of a mountain to cross, and there is a dangerous river if there is a flooding, which very often gets jammed up, so that people cannot get out or in. A streambed should be run between that district and a good market town. There is a mill in Cusheadall that has water power that could be repaired at a small expense. It would be of great benefit to this place for grinding Indian corn.

37361. Is that one of the roads that have been already recommended?—No. This is another road on the south-east side of Glendun, where there is no road. If there was a road there from Cusheadall it would accommodate the people who live on that side, and would run on the main road to Ballymagy.

37362. What is the length of this road?—I could not say. I think about four miles.

37363. Has the necessity of that road ever been brought before the District Council?—I don't think so, unless it has been done very lately.

37364. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—What stock do you keep?
—I keep two cows and a horse.

37365. How about calves?—Whilst I have cows I carry them. Some years cows have no calves.

37366. The cows do calve?—They don't calve every year.

Mr. DENIS MCKENZIE examined.

Mr. Denis
McKenzie.

37369. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?
—At Ballymagy, Cusheadall. I am a District Councillor for the Cusheadall division. The difficulty of living in the district I attribute to the poverty of the place, and the want of road accommodation. To illustrate the difficulty of road accommodation I may mention that when they were erecting some eighty labourers' cottages in Ballymagy the average tender for a block of two houses in other parts of the union was £265, but in the district to which I refer the lowest tender was £475. This difference of over £200 was owing to the difficulty of drawing material to the district. The Local Government Board would not sanction this expenditure, and these cottages were not built. This was near the site, and the extra cost was merely for drawing stone, brick, and timber. Five cwt. would be a heavy load on this old road if you may call it a road. It is merely a winding path through the hills. It was in a dangerous state when I went on the Council. I got the Council to do some little fencing. There was a horse that was not accustomed to this hill going

with a gentleman on a car, and when the horse got to the top of the hill it dropped dead. I applied to have a cutting here, and it was passed by the County Council. The landlender would not give the ground. It was only a short hill that required four feet of excavation of width. There it lies. Such a state of things does not exist anywhere else.

37367. The particular road you are speaking of is one of the two roads already referred to?—This is the road running through the electoral division. The district should be subdivided under the Congested Districts Board, and prompt action taken by the Board. I think there are only five or six families in the district that have not some boys or girls abroad. I, myself, have three sons in San Francisco. They send me money, and everyone, I might say, in the district, is quite free from abroad.

37368. Mr. BARRY.—Where would the proposed road begin?—It would begin in Cusheadall and extend to Ballymagy.

37368. Where the coal-pit is?—Yes.

Mr. JAMES STEVENS examined.

May 20, 1905.

Mr. James
Stevens.

37390. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?
—In High-street, Cushendall.

37391. Are you a farmer?—No; I am a sailor.

37392. Have you been a sailor on this coast?—Yes.

37393. Have you been fishing?—A little; out about the bay here. I fish with these draft nets. They go out about 100 fathoms and are hauled on the beach.

37394. What fish do you get?—Herring on several occasions, flat fish, whiting, and others.

37395. In what month did you get herring?—Last December.

37396. What sort of a boat do you go out in?—Just an open boat. It takes four hands.

37397. Did you do well with the herring?—No; it was only a few we got.

37398. Were they in great numbers?—Yes. If we could have gone out far enough for them.

37399. You think that the fishing could be developed?—I believe it could if we had accommodation for keeping boats. I got one boat to fish with and lost her the very first week. There was no place to store her. I had to keep her riding in the bay. She was a smack of about ten tons, and was thirty-two feet over all.

37400. Sir JOHN COLCER.—How long ago was this?—About nine years.

37401. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—How long were you fishing in boats?—I did not get a start until a house came on, and she went to pieces on the rocks, breaking her chain.

37402. Is yours an exceptional experience about the fishing, or are there many other men here who fish?

—Yes. Quite a number of men fish around here, but on a small scale, as they have no harbour.

37403. The Scotch fishermen don't come here?—No, they have no accommodation.

37404. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Your local men must beach their boats?—Most decidedly.

37405. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What you would like to suggest is a pier?—A fishing harbour that we could save our boats in.

37406. Where could that be put?—In the south end of the bay here.

37407. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Is that the place that Mr. O'Neill was sketching the harbour in?—Yes.

37408. Sir JOHN COLCER.—Was it some time ago you used to fish?—Of and on since I was a boy I have been working at it.

37409. Have you been away in ships?—Yes; I have been in ships.

37410. Have you spent your life at sea?—Since I was a boy.

37411. You were born and bred here, and went to sea?—Yes.

37412. Do you think it a terrible thing for a young man to go to sea?—A great number told me that if there was a fishing industry here they would stop at home.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The Fishery Department will have evidence before them and will certainly consider it.

Mr. MAURICE FINLAY examined.

37413. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You reside at Cushendall?—Yes. I am a resident fisherman there, and depend on fishing for my livelihood. I fish all kinds of fish, live fishing, net fishing, lobster, salmon and every kind of fishing according to the season of the year. We fish all the year round, myself and another man. We have a 20-foot open boat. We cannot use a larger boat owing to the want of harbour accommodation. We cannot haul her up. Sometimes she cannot take the bar at Cushendall, where vessels drawing nine feet could formerly come in. The bar is at the mouth of the river. There was a north wall running north-east, forming a breakwater, which through neglect has been nearly entirely destroyed by wind and weather. The north-east wall fills the bar up with sand. This wall could be repaired at small cost. In former times a boat of 300 tons named "Cushendall" was built at Cushendall by Captain Dan McNeill's father, and fifteen sail belonged to the port.

37414. How long ago was that?—In the year 1820. It goes to show how the place has deteriorated.

37415. What fish are you after just now?—If properly equipped I would be fishing herring at present. They are all around in these waters.

37416. Sir JOHN COLCER.—At this time of year?—Yes. The night before last I got herring. The Department say that about May is about the most suitable time for the Northern boats, but it is of little use, as there is no harbour accommodation for them.

37417. How did you get those herrings?—By draft net, which is not the proper way of catching herring, and if you get there that way it shows that you will get them in larger quantities with proper nets.

37418. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When you catch herrings in these draft nets, do you get a lot, or do you only get two or three at a cast?—We don't get a lot at a time. We cannot get out far enough. To fish herring in the proper way you use draft nets. A draft net is where you leave a rope on the beach about forty fathoms long, and you set your net in a half circle and have it secured to another rope hauling on the shore again.

Sir JOHN COLCER.—That is a seine net.

37419. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you get lobsters in the bay?—All round the coast.

37420. Are they fairly plentiful?—Fairly. There are all kinds of fish if properly looked after. We

cannot do that on account of the want of shelter for boats. There is no use in getting a boat to get her ensnared. I have come from Red Bay on a fine enough night, but there was a wind from the southward and I could not cross the bar at home, and had to beat back again.

37421. An application has been made to the Department of Agriculture, I understand, for a loan for boats and gear?—Yes.

37422. That would not meet the point you refer to. The real point you make now is the necessity of such protection as would enable boats big enough to get out to where the fish are plentiful?—Yes. There is any number of days when if you were out you could work all right, but the people cannot get out, or if they get out they cannot get in.

37423. How long have you been fishing?—Since I was a boy, for the last fifteen years.

37424. Would you say that the amount of fish is the same as long ago?—It has not diminished, except the salmon. The reason for that is that the rivers are not properly protected. The Government should look after that.

37425. Sir JOHN COLCER.—Is not there a Board of Conservators?—It is a useless body. It does nothing.

37426. It has bailiffs on the rivers?—There are none on the Glendun river that I speak about.

37427. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You occasionally do catch salmon still?—There are two salmon fisheries down there that are extensive fisheries, and are fished fairly well. There is a crew of men employed by each fishery to fish them.

37428. At the mouth?—One at the mouth.

37429. Within the half-mile?—With fixed engines. They belong to the landlord.

37430. Are they bag nets?—Draft nets. A bag net cannot be used since 1850 within three miles of the mouth of a river.

37431. Are there as many lobsters as when you began?—Hardly.

37432. Mr. STEVENS.—Is there good white fishing?—Yes. I have got as many as eleven halibut in one week. I have got them over 75 lbs. We catch them on big lines. For the want of shelter for boats we must give up fishing altogether.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think you have quite made out a case for the protection of boats.

The Commission adjourned.

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SEVENTY-FIFTH PUBLIC SITTING.

SATURDAY, MAY 25TH, 1907,

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.,

In the Assembly Rooms, Cockstown, County Tyrone

Present:—The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir JOHN COLONER, K.C.M.G.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; JOHN ANNAN BRYCE, Esq., M.P.; CONOR O'KELLY, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., B.L.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary

May 25, 1907.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT (in the chair).—Before we commence the examination of witnesses I would like to say a few words to prevent disappointment that might afterwards arise. The business of this Commission is not to grant relief, or to make alterations in the existing law or practice. We have no power of that sort whatever. All we are entitled to do is to report to Government what changes in the law or administration are needed for dealing with the problem

of congestion, and incidentally, no doubt, to call attention to any improvements that might possibly be effected. But I want those present to bear in mind that we have no power of making or bringing about any alteration in the law or practice. Our power is strictly limited to making a statement of the general facts of the case for the consideration of the Government.

Mr. PATRICK TARRANT examined.

Mr. Patrick Tarrant.

37433. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What district do you belong to?—To Pomeroy, and I wish to give evidence of the working of the county schemes of agricultural and technical instruction in my immediate neighbourhood. I am well acquainted with the tract of country stretching from Pomeroy to Banagher and Greenacres and the neighbourhood of Carrickmore. The land in this district while not everywhere of uniformly poor quality is generally very poor. Some of the holdings are fairly large, but many are very small. The occupiers of these holdings, with few exceptions, are hampered by lack of labour and lack of capital. In these districts the agricultural and technical instruction schemes of the County Committee have been at work, and there is no doubt that the result of the system of itinerant instruction has been beneficially felt in the parts of the county of which I am speaking. Both the lectures and the personal visits of the instructors have caused interest and encouraged improvement, while at the same time serving as a check to being the people into touch with the work and resources of the Department. I would specially refer to the work in connection with agriculture, horticulture, and bee-keeping, which has been carried on in this neighbourhood, and while it must be remembered that such work is in a pioneer stage, and that the districts to which I now refer are particularly difficult of access, it is noticeable that a considerable amount of progress has been made. Under the scheme of itinerant instruction in agriculture the lectures and visits of the instructor have given farmers a great deal of useful information about seeds, manures, drainage, improved methods of feeding stock, precautions to be used in the treatment of milk, and a number of other matters which are directly applicable to their daily practice. Experimental and demonstration plots, while they do not generally attract the attention of great numbers, are extremely instructive to those in the immediate vicinity of the plots, and by this means very useful object lessons are taught. The knowledge may and does spread slowly in all probability, but the results are not forgotten. The facilities offered to small farmers and cottagers through the itinerant instruction in horticulture and bee-keeping, which has been provided by the Committee, tends to give the people a greater interest in the appearance of their homes, and while they are slow to utilise new material for their own consumption, the cultivation of vegetables is on the increase, and their value is gradually becoming appreciated. The egg stations, turkey stations, and goose stations established in the county have helped very considerably to improve the fowls of the

small holders, and a class of instruction in the tending of poultry and preparation of birds for the market, which was held in Pomeroy last spring, was well attended. The girls seemed interested, and they certainly acquired a considerable amount of skill in treading.

37434. I gather from you that these instructors have inspired a good deal of interest in the people?—They have, and those who have applied the instruction received have benefited.

37435. Would you say that any distinct improvement in the earnings of the people from poultry and bee-keeping has begun to show itself?—They have reaped no benefit from bee-keeping as yet, because they are not in the country.

37436. You mean there are no bees in the country?—Only an old man has them, and they are, no doubt, making money. But poultry and eggs are a flourishing business.

37437. Do the people consume the eggs they get or do they sell them?—They bring the eggs to market at Cockstown. Many of these people have nothing to live upon but the money the eggs bring in.

37438. Is that an industry which has been created by instruction and lectures, or did the industry already exist and been developed by instruction?—No, it did not exist before.

37439. Mr. BRYCE.—How far is Pomeroy from here?—It lies between Omagh and Dungannon. It is seven miles from Dungannon and fourteen from Omagh.

37440. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Have the small occupiers benefited as much by this instruction as the bigger farmers?—They have. The small farmers are depending on the produce of their fowl at the present time. There is a shortage of labour. The young men have left the country, and farmers cannot rent their land by spade.

37441. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What about the live stock schemes?—Under the live stock schemes both premium bulls and premium heifers have been located in these poor districts. Indeed I have on several occasions brought before the Committee the needs of the part of the county in regard to the improvement of live stock, and the premium animals, which have been located at or near Pomeroy, Greenacres, Doonagh, and other places in this tract, have done much to improve the class of stock. More animals of this kind could, I think, be profitably placed in the district, but with only a limited number of premiums available for the whole county it is not possible at present. The cottage and small farm prize scheme, which is now, I think, in operation for the second year, is one which is calculated to give both a stimulus and encouragement to

the poorer districts, and the fact that one cowpox, who was plosky enough to enter last year for this competition, obtained the first prize in his class has stirred up others to follow his example. The inspection of the holdings by the judge is often very helpful to the competitors, for advice is then given on the ground.

37442. How long has the live stock scheme been in operation in your part of the county?—It has been in operation for about four years.

37443. Is it the general opinion that the schemes have led to the improvement of stock?—There is no doubt of it. Those who have complied with the wishes of the Committee have good cattle and those who have not have bad cattle still.

37444. The bulls have been there four years, and there is improvement in the cattle?—Yes, and latterly more farmers are complying with the wishes of the Committee to improve the stock. These men have been looking around at their neighbours, and they have seen that they did wrong in not taking advantage of the schemes earlier, and after another year they will also be deriving advantage from the schemes.

37445. Would you say that the young stock is finding a better price in the market owing to the operation of these schemes?—Yes.

37446. The two year old and six quarter stock from these prime bulls are being sold in the market?—Yes, they are sold from six quarters to two years old.

37447. Can you tell me who buys them?—Generally jobbers buy them and send them to England, or big farmers from the county buy them and put them on the grass at this season of the year.

37448. Do many of them go direct to the English and Scotch markets?—A good many go to the English markets. There is no day that there is not a drove of cattle going over to the English granger.

37449. Are you dealing with Pomarey?—They are going from Pomarey also, I know a man named Harro who ships fifty or sixty head a month alone.

37450. You say the price of young stock is improving in your market?—Very much so.

37451. What would you say is the average price for a six quarter beast?—Well this time (twelvemonth) my son sold a six quarters for £10. He had fed it well during the winter.

37452. He kept it inside?—It was on the grass, and he fed it night and morning with meal and some hay.

37453. Must Mr. De O'Donnell?—You are a member of the committee?—I am.

37454. You take advantage of the scheme?—I go to listen to the instruction, and I am very glad that there are such instructors to explain better methods of farming and kindred subjects to the people. I would be better pleased if all the people in the county took advantage of this instruction, but unfortunately there are men who have no means, and they say, "We should we go there; we have nothing, and where is the use of our going."

37455. There there is a class of cottagers too poor to avail themselves of this instruction?—Quite so.

37456. Their means are not sufficient to enable them to profit by itinerant instruction?—Their means are too low.

37457. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is there much spraying of potatoes in your district?—We would have no potatoes but for the spraying. Some of the farmers would not spray until they saw their neighbours benefit by it, and now they are all at it. There were men who said, "Let nature take its course, and not interfere."

37458. I should think that is the sort of man who should benefit by a little instruction?—He would not at first, but now he is in line with all the others who spray.

37459. Mr. BRYCE.—The whole countryside sprays now?—Yes. We would not have any potatoes otherwise.

37460. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is the belief quite general that spraying is a good thing to do?—Yes, it is proved by the fact that the men who formerly refused to spray do not refuse now.

37461. Must Mr. De O'Donnell.—The country towards Coolinora is a great potato growing country?—Yes, and about Pomarey they live mostly on potatoes.

37462. Are potatoes exported from this part of the county?—I do not think so.

37463. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is the next point you wish to make?—The districts I refer to are

awkward to get at. They are in the hands of those who have little or no capital to improve their holdings. They cannot get labour, and there is no doubt that special schemes applicable to these districts would do more good than a general county scheme. I have always held that the County Committee should be provided with special funds to effect improvement in such districts. The present system is perfectly applicable to them, but the application should be made with due regard to the needs of areas smaller than a rural district.

37464. Do you mean by assisting these poorer districts that they should have loans advanced to them at a low rate of interest or have an absolute present made to them?—I mean an advance at a low rate of interest.

37465. Have you contemplated what would be the security for such a loan?—Well, I would say the land they held would be good enough security.

37466. You say the application of the present system should be made with regard to areas smaller than a rural district?—Yes.

37467. Do you mean by that that the same system should not be applicable throughout the whole district, but that the local committee should assist the poorer men and not assist so much, at all events, those that are better off?—What I mean is that you will find one townland where the people are all very poor and another townland where the farmers are all rich. I think the poor farmers should be helped. Such schemes should be proportionately more costly, but they would probably effect considerable improvement in comparatively small areas. By this I do not mean that a system of open-fencing is necessary, rather an educational system of self-help, which I understand is the basis of the work at present being done. I consider that the Department and the committee could do much good work in this direction: were the necessary funds available.

37468. You contemplate the advance of the money not from the rates but from the State?—Quite so.

37469. I am afraid the advance of money from the State is rather a new reading of self-help?—These are my own views.

37470. Besides the present aid of the Department and the local committee, you desire that the State should advance through some authority, I presume in Ireland, sums of money to the local committee to apply at their discretion in assisting the poorer farmers within their limits?—Yes; by doing so they would keep our young people from going abroad, and give them encouragement to stay at home. In the poor country districts a young man sees nothing before him. He will emigrate and do anything at all rather than stay at home, but if there was some assistance such as I suggest the country would flourish and the young man would stay at home.

37471. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You suggest something in the nature of Parish Committees?—I do not know; you are the judge and know what to do better than I could suggest. I am only giving you my views as to the needs of the country.

37472. You suggest that the money should be given to the poorer and not to the richer districts?—Quite so. I would give to the man who needs it most.

37473. And you would keep the smaller and poorer areas distinct from the richer and larger areas?—Yes.

37474. Sir JOHN COLANNE.—You spoke of the young men leaving the country, and said there was not enough spade labour. Are there many holdings in your district not large enough for the use of a horse, and cultivated only by spade?—These holdings are too hilly. A horse could not work on them, and the men here to carry manure in carts.

37475. There are holdings that could not be worked otherwise than by spade?—There are portions where all labour has to be done by spade. Suppose I had ten or twenty acres of land, half of that I could work by horse, but the other half I could not.

37476. The one-half could only be worked by spade if worked at all?—Yes, and was worked by spade up till the young men left.

37477. And I suppose the hilly parts which it is not possible to work with a horse are now in grass?—Yes.

37478. And the grass is poor?—It is. I may say there is a portion of land which my father held. The rent was then a guinea an acre. It was

May 21, 1897.

Mr. Patrick
Trotter

May 26, 1907.

Mr. Patrick
Treanor.

laboured, because there was plenty of people in the country then. At the present time I have five acres of that land in grass for £1. I would not give 5s. for the five acres but for the accommodation to feed my horse.

37479. But the reduced value appears to have been brought about because it was not laboured, and at the same time you tell us that the young men are leaving the country because there is no labour for them at home?—The land was all worked by the spade, and when the young men left the country it was not laboured.

37480. What I wish to bring home to you is this, you have told us that the young men are leaving the country because there is no labour for them, and you also tell us that land which was worth a guinea an acre has gone back until it is not worth 4s. an acre because it was not laboured and kept in good heart?—If we employed labour we would reap no benefit from it.

37481. But if it was worth a guinea an acre before, and is not worth that now, is that a benefit?—Because these young fellows, when they reach a certain age, rather than stick on the hills they would go into the army or emigrate to a foreign country.

37482. But they go away because there is no labour for them to do at home?—There is no labour for them.

37483. But when the land was worth a guinea an acre labour was employed upon it?—There was labour enough then, but they say they would never get on in the place and left.

37484. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You say that out of twenty acres of arable land on this class of holding, ten must be worked by spade?—Yes.

Rev. THOMAS M'CLACHY examined.

37493. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You are a priest at Kildress?—Yes, I appear here to give evidence for that district.

37494. Mr. BAYNE.—Where is Kildress?—It has about six miles to the north-west of Coolstown in the Greenacres and Gortin direction.

37495. Mr. O'KELLY.—In what rural district is it included?—It is in the Coolstown rural district.

37496. Is it included in the electoral division of Killeenan?—I am not quite sure as to the boundary lines of the electoral divisions. The whole of the electoral division of Killeenan is part of the district of Kildress, which district comprises in addition the electoral divisions of Ballinacorney and part of Oaklands and Beaghmore.

37497. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—It is one of the areas interested in the Coolstown to Strahane railway project?—It is.

37498. Is Berraghbeg also in that district?—Yes.

37499. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—What is the first point you wish to draw our attention to?—The previous witness stated, I think, that cattle had been improved by the working of the Agricultural Board. I beg to say that does not apply to the district of Kildress. The quality of the cattle has been in no way improved, and the district has in no way benefited by the working of the Agricultural Board. There is no improvement as regards poultry and cattle due to that Board.

37500. Is that because the Board has not supplied stock for the use of the district?—I will give you an illustration. In the district of Kildress one gentleman got a premium bull, and the animal died. That gentleman did not get another bull. I understand that the class of cattle being supplied did not suit the district. The Board sent down shorthorns, and that class of cattle is not suited to the wild and mountainous district of Kildress. They could not thrive there. The bull I speak of died, and as far as I am aware it was the only bull sent by the Department to the district.

37501. Did the district make any representation to the Department for further assistance in that way?—I think not.

37502. Was the fact brought under the notice of the Department that the bull supplied by them, was not suitable for the circumstances of the district?—Well, the Department could have understood it, because the district is represented on the County Committee.

37485. And some years ago there were men in the country to do spade labour?—Yes, young men.

37486. I suppose farmers could afford to pay the wages labourers had when the land was worked by spade?—Yes.

37487. But they could not afford to pay the wages now prevailing for labour?—No, they could not.

37488. Wages have gone up?—They have.

37489. Labourers would not now take the wages that were paid thirty years ago on the same class of land?—They would not. They would not stay at any wages, because they see their neighbours on good land making a profit, while they themselves are making nothing. They say, "We are making nothing out of living here," and they emigrate.

37490. Now, is it not a question of degree. You say they would not stay at any wages—Do you mean that no matter how high the wages they would not stay?—I mean no man could afford to pay the wages that would keep them.

37491. Sir JAMES CONNELL.—Do I understand you to say that the young men on poor land emigrate, while the young men on good land stay at home?—The young men from the poor land leave the country in the greater number.

37492. Mr. BAYNE.—I do not think you told us how you propose to induce these young men to stay at home?—I think if there was money advanced to assist them to bring their land back to the same state as in their father's time they would leave America, come home, and put the land into good condition. I have read letters from men abroad in which they say, "If we thought we could make anything out of it we would rather go back to Ireland." The lands for want of labour are full of fume or whins and rushes.

37503. But it seems unlikely that the Department would deliberately send stock, which was not suited to the district?—I cannot explain their reasons, I am merely stating facts.

37504. Your district would have to deal more immediately with the County Committee of Agriculture, and not the Department?—That is correct.

37505. After that animal died, were any other bulls supplied by the county committee?—No, none was sent into the district after the one that died.

37506. Is there any representative from your district on the county committee?—Yes.

37507. Do you know what steps he took regarding the matter?—I am not aware, but the gentleman is present and perhaps he will explain.

37508. Mr. BAYNE.—How long was the bull in the district before it died?—It was there two months.

37509. Is it died almost immediately after it arrived, there would be no chance of seeing whether it had effected any improvement in the cattle in the district?—There wasn't much time for experiments.

37510. Had you sufficient evidence to know whether the animal was of any use, or whether supplying a bull had it could have improved the cattle?—It could not possibly have been of use in the district, because that class of cattle would not suit the district, they would not thrive in such a wild part of the county.

37511. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Did the Department do anything to improve the breed of poultry?—There are some fowl, but there is no evidence of real improvement, even among the poultry.

37512. Do you attribute that to the fowl also being of a wrong class?—I wish to state that the district has not been benefited.

37513. But I want to know how a supply of good breeding stock did not benefit the district. It must be either that the fowl and the bull were not suitable, or that the people did not take full advantage of what was offered them?—I think they are taking advantage of the fowl, but there is no tangible or visible evidence of improvement.

37514. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—It takes some time to effect improvement?—It takes considerable time.

37515. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—For how long has the Department been supplying these fowl?—I am four years in the district, and they have been there all that time. There are two gentlemen I know who have got these fowl.

37516. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is it the poor or the better off farmers who get these fowls?—They are the better off farmers who have these fowls from the Committee.

37517. Not the poorer farmers?—No.

37518. Has ignorant instruction benefited Kildress?—We have had itinerant instructors in the district, but these have not been much noticeable improvement as a result.

37519. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is the evidence you would like to give about your district?—I would like to say that the district of Upper Kildress forms part of a wild and rugged belt of country between Cookstown and Strabane. The total area is close on seventeen thousand acres. Of this a great part is mountainous and altogether unfit for cultivation, and practically useless for any purpose. What is called arable land is largely ground that was retained from bog some generations ago, and is, with the exception of two townlands, cold, poor and unproductive.

37520. Is the district you speak of wholly in Cookstown Union or are parts of it in Omagh and Strabane Unions?—I am not aware that there are any parts of it in either Omagh or Strabane Unions. It is, I think, wholly in Cookstown Union.

37521. Is there much sheep or cattle grazing in the district?—It is so rough with marshes here and there that it would be dangerous to graze stock all over it. There are some mountain sheep kept, but not many. There would be about four thousand acres of wild mountain, and considering the average number of sheep kept is very small.

37522. Because the bogs are dangerous for the sheep?—There are salt marshes scattered here and there between the hills and these are dangerous for cattle. In the winter season farmers have a difficulty in keeping their sheep alive because it is so cold on the mountains, and snow falls very heavily. This ground has recently passed through the hands of several large farmers from the inland districts, who bought the ground as a speculation for grazing sheep.

37523. Have they sold it again?—Yes, from one to the other. One man had the land for a few years. He found it was not paying, and he sold it to another gentleman, a large farmer from Cough, who has now some small sheep on the mountains, but I have heard it does not pay him.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Farmers always say that, I am afraid.

37524. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Was the land sold in the market?—It was.

37525. How many farmers have had it?—It is now in the hands of the second owner I came to the district.

37526. Have you any idea of the rent of this place?—I am not quite sure about it.

37527. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—If it would not pay to keep sheep there now it could not pay in other years, as sheep are fetching a good price now?—That is so; it does not pay.

37528. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Can you give us any information regarding the valuation of the holdings in the district. There are over seven hundred rated properties in this district. Only 6·7 per cent. of these are £10 valuation and over; 74·6 per cent. are £5 valuation and under; 18·7 per cent. are less than £10 and over £5, whilst the average valuation per rated property is only £4 13s., and the average valuation per acre 4s. 1½d.

37529. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I find that the valuation per head in the electoral division of Kildress is £2 3s. 1½d.—Yes, and 95 per cent. of the holdings are under £10 valuation.

37530. In Banagher the valuation is £1 10s. 6d. 1.—Yes.

37531. Mr. O'KEEFE.—And 87 per cent. there are under £10 valuation?—Yes. Farming, if it is the circumstance, it can be called an industry, is the only one in the district. The farms, as a rule, are not more than twelve acres, and, considering the nature of the soil, quite unfit to provide the bare necessities of life for the few that remain on them.

37532. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When you speak of the few that remain, do you mean that some of the farms are abandoned or sold to the tenants of other farms?—Some are abandoned. The young people as they grow up emigrate.

37533. But someone holds the farms?—The farms are there, of course, but many of them are abandoned altogether, and nothing is left standing but the old walls.

37534. What has become of the land?—The land in some instances is growing wild.

37535. Mr. BRYCE.—With nobody occupying it at all?—Lots of farms are unoccupied.

37536. Unoccupied and uncultivated?—Yes. The farmers who lived there have gone to England or Scotland, but they remain nominally the tenants if they can pay up the arrears of rent.

37537. Those men derive nothing from the land?—Sometimes they let these farms to neighbours at a small figure, but it is only a trifle. I think that is a positive instance of the poverty of the ground.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—This is rather new; we have not heard of this up to the present.

37538. Mr. BRYCE.—These abandoned farms have not gone back into the possession of the landlord?—The landlord in some instances has evicted the tenant, and the land is then taken over by those who pay up the arrears.

37539. But that is not an abandoned farm?—No, but there are farms that are vacant. The nominal owners are in America, England, or Scotland, and if they can get £2 or £3 a year from a neighbouring tenant for grazing the owner may pay up the arrears of rent and nominally hold the land.

37540. Sir JOHN COCHRAN.—When you speak of the owner of the land you mean the tenant?—Yes.

37541. Mr. BRYCE.—Have these people been in the Land Courts to have new rents fixed?—I cannot answer that question. I am not sure.

37542. Sir JOHN COCHRAN.—When the tenant goes to America or elsewhere, and abandons the farm except for grazing by the neighbouring tenant, who pays the rent in that case?—Very often the rent remains unpaid.

37543. Do you mean that although the adjoining tenant is paying a small sum to the absentee for the use of this deserted farm the landlord does not get any rent and does not interfere at all?—Well, it is true in the cases I am referring to. I have one notable case in my mind, half-a-mile from my own house.

37544. Mr. BRYCE.—Does the landlord receive any applications from adjoining or neighbouring tenants to take up these farms?—Yes.

37545. Then there is competition for these abandoned farms notwithstanding that the land is so bad?—Well, it could not be called competition. The adjoining tenant might take this abandoned farm if he thought he was conscientiously justified in doing so.

37546. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would he take it from the landlord or the tenant who had gone away?—He would like to have it from the tenant. He would not like to go behind his back.

37547. Mr. BRYCE.—He might be called a land-grabber if he did?—Exactly. I may say that two-thirds of the population are obliged to depend for help on relatives in America, England, or Scotland, or by hiring out their children at a very tender age.

37548. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—They are hired out for farm labour?—Yes, harding and working about the farm-houses.

37549. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are these young people hired out in the immediate district?—Yes.

37550. At what age do they leave home?—Boys are sometimes hired, though not exactly outside the district, at ten years of age to hard in the summer months. Boys and girls are hired out from fourteen on.

37551. Mr. BRYCE.—What about attendance at school?—They attend school up to about fourteen years of age.

37552. What is the percentage of attendance of the names on the roll?—I would take it to be about 75 per cent.; they attend school well, but I am not quite sure about the percentage.

37553. Are all the children in the district on the roll?—I have reason to believe they are.

37554. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do the children leave school at too early an age to go to hire?—Not as a rule.

37555. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is the Compulsory Education Act in force in the county?—In the rural districts, yes.

37556. Is it working well?—It is.

37557. You hear no complaints against the system?—Well, of course, parents grumble.

37558. How long has the Act been in force in your district?—It has been in force for, I think, about two years or so.

37559. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Is the Act in force in the rural as well as in the urban districts?—It is in force

May 25, 1907.

Rev. Thomas O'Donnell.

May 25, 1907.

Rev. Thomas
McCauley.

In the district about which I am giving evidence, and it is a rural district.

37563. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What about the crops?—The effects of a bad season are disastrous. The potato is the principal food of the people. If the season be wet the potato is a failure, and not only is it unsuited for human use but the crop is so poor that the farmer cannot economically keep a pig.

37562. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What kind of crop had you last year?—The crop in the mountain district was very bad.

37563. Mr. BRYCE.—Was it sprayed?—Yes.

37564. And, notwithstanding, the crop was bad?—Yes, the potatoes were very small and very soft. In fact the class of potato grown in the upper districts generally was unfit for human use.

37565. Sir JOHN CECIL.—Coming here to-day we passed numerous crops with very fine-looking potatoes in them?—They would be from the good land around either Dungannon or Cookstown.

37566. The potatoes I saw must have been grown on good land?—They must have been; they didn't grow in Kildare.

37567. Was last season a bad season all round, or was it a bad season for potatoes on bad land and a good season for potatoes on good land?—I am giving evidence regarding the district I know and represent here, and in that district the potato crop last year was bad all round. I know that in the very best of seasons men can be seen daily carting turf nine miles and more into Cookstown, and selling them here for 2s. 6d. a load. They were obliged by necessity to do this.

37568. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Would the turf be their own or turf they buy and sell over again?—They cut the turf and dry them. They spend a lot of time at the work. Then they cart the turf, as I have said, for nine miles and over, and sell them for 2s. 6d., 2s. 3d., and sometimes 2s. a load.

37569. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I take it the farmers are very glad to have that means of making a little money?—Yes, that is the reason they bring in the turf.

37570. Mr. BRYCE.—Do the terms of their tenancy allow them to cut the turf and sell it?—In many instances the bog is within the area of the holding, but on some estates, of course, the tenants are not allowed to cut turf for sale.

37571. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—In the poor districts turf would be most abundant?—Yes, turf is most abundant.

37572. Mr. BRYCE.—Will the turf last a long time if cut and sold in this way?—Yes, there is any quantity of bog.

37573. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is the next thing you wish to say about this district?—I wish to say that it cannot with reason be indicated that the people are lazy or not industrious. I know the contrary is the truth, and they are most anxious to co-operate in the carrying out of any scheme calculated to better their condition. As things are, even if the land were bought out and farmers sitting free of rent, two-thirds could not make a decent living of the land or live in comparative comfort. Up to this only two townlands have been able to come to an agreement with the landlord to buy out, and those two, to my mind, have bought too dear.

37574. When did they buy it?—About two years ago.

37575. Under this last Act?—Yes.

37576. Do you know the prices they paid?—Yes, twenty-four years plus the bonus.

37577. On second term rents?—Yes.

37578. Mr. O'Kelly.—What was the prevailing average in County Tyrone under former Acts when there was no bonus?—I think about seventeen years.

37579. On second term rents?—I think there were no second term rents then.

37580. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—It would be at the current rent?—Yes.

37581. Mr. BRYCE.—These purchases would be under the Ashbourne Act?—Yes.

37582. Sir JOHN CECIL.—In the townlands you mention as being sold under the recent Act were there any derelict farms?—There was one in the townland of Tullinahone.

37583. You know of only one derelict farm on the townlands which have been sold?—I know of one if I understand by derelict farms a farm on which the owner does not reside, because it is unfit to support himself and family.

37584. No, I do not mean that. I understood you to say that there were several small farms in your

district the holder or occupier of which had gone away?—Yes, there are many like that.

37585. What I call a derelict farm is one in respect of which no rent is paid to the landlord, and the tenant has gone away but receives a small sum from a neighbouring tenant for the use of the land for grazing. Are there any such farms in the townlands that have been sold?—No, there are no farms such as you describe on the townlands which have been sold.

37586. In your district are the farms held by one or two large landlords or by several small landlords?—There are several landlords, but I would not say they are small. Several landlords have townlands there.

37587. Are these derelict farms all on one particular property, or are they spread over the properties of the different landlords?—They are not all on one particular property, they are scattered over all.

37588. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you aware of any negotiations going on now for the purchase of land?—There have been negotiations, but farmers have been unable to come to satisfactory terms with the landlords. They offered 25 and 25½ years' purchase on second term rents, and the landlord would not accept.

37589. What reduction would that have meant in the rents they were paying?—I am not quite sure, but I suppose it would have meant 4s. or 5s. in the £.

37590. Mr. BRYCE.—Speaking generally, are there much streams of rent due by these small, poor tenants?—On these derelict farms to which I have referred I think there are.

37591. I am not referring to derelict farms alone. Taking all the poor tenants, are they much behind in their rent?—I think not. The farmers manage to pay their rent. They get money from England and Scotland, or America, to enable them to do so.

37592. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When you refer to England and Scotland, do you mean that the sons of the tenants have gone over there for the harvest and come home with what they have earned, or do you mean that they are away permanently?—I mean permanently—that is, they go to England or elsewhere and stay there for a long period—five, ten, or more years.

37593. Do many people go away from your district at harvest time to England and Scotland?—No, not from this district.

37594. What do you suggest the Congested District Board should do for the small farmers of your district?—I think much could be done by the Congested Districts Board for the poor and hard-worked farmers of this district. The Board could help the tenants towards the thorough draining of the land and the providing of suitable manures and lime. I am sure you see.

The rough limestone used formerly to be supplied free by the landlord. Then the land was much more productive than now. The Board could also help to start some industry, say a textile industry or a factory which, I believe, would flourish in the district. In times gone by there were domestic industries such as spinning and weaving. They years ago there were nineteen spinning and weaving looms in one townland, but ten years ago the lot of those fell through. That industry has disappeared and farmers have got to rely solely on the price of the ground and on bad land that is not sufficient.

37595. Sir JOHN CECIL.—When the landlord supplied the limestone free, was that before 1811?—Even since 1811, I think, but I cannot say as regards this district whether that is strictly so or not, but there are gentlemen here who could answer the question.

37596. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—When you speak of drainage, do you mean arterial drainage or a large scale?—No, not as a large scheme.

37597. Then you mean chiefly field drainage?—Yes.

37598. Would it meet the case if farmers and tenants had loans on easy terms from some public body so as to drain their fields?—I think it would be feasible for farmers to take a loan. I do not see how they could undertake the responsibility of paying it.

37599. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The result of the drainage would be improved receipts from the land?—Yes, I understand that.

37600. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Drainage is of two classes, arterial and field. Suppose the large, or arterial, drainage were done by the State, might it not be reasonable to expect that the occupier who had brought out his holding would be able to pay a higher instalment for his holding in a well-drained

than an undrained state?—Of course it is true that the drained land would be better and more profitable, and the farmer ought to be able to pay the higher instalment, because his holding would be more economical and more productive, but the larger scheme of arterial drainage is not necessary in the district.

37613. The drainage required is altogether field drainages?—Yes.

37614. Then take field drainage; don't you think the occupier could bear a higher instalment in view of the drainage of his land than if he bought it without being drained or any prospect of it being drained?—It would seem so.

37615. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What else do you recommend that the Congested Districts Board should do for your district?—I wish to suggest also the construction of a light railway from Cookstown to Strabane, a distance of about forty miles. That line would open up a district in which the roads are hilly and the means of transit slow, and a district which has been very much neglected.

37616. Has any particular route or scheme been considered by the county, or do you suggest generally that improvement of communication would be desirable?—Yes, by rail.

37617. When you mention a light railway, has there been any scheme, or a particular route, under discussion?—Not so far. The necessity for the construction of a line has been discussed.

37618. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Has the route been considered?—Not in detail.

37619. Where will the termini be?—Cookstown on the one side, and the other would be either Donaghadee or Strabane.

37620. What advantages would such a railway confer on the district you represent?—The central part of this district would be, I suppose, nine or ten miles from Cookstown, which is the market town for the district. The difficulties farmers experience getting to and from this town are very great. Their houses as a rule are slow and weedy, and when coming to market farmers have to leave home very early in the morning, particularly in winter.

37621. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do farmers on these small holdings keep a horse?—On the small holdings there is no horse; many farms could not be worked by a horse at all.

37622. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Are there any green lands in your district that might be used for the enlargement of neighbouring small holdings?—No. My idea is if the condition of the farm were improved it would be equivalent to an addition to the farm, because the output would be increased.

37623. Do you think that result could be achieved in the electoral division of Killeenman by drainage or other means, considering that 95 per cent. of the holdings are under £10 valuation. Would the condition of their holdings be bettered and raised to an economic standard?—They would be raised to a fairly economic standing. The condition of the holdings would be bettered.

37624. In Broughmore district 87 per cent. of the holdings are under £10 valuation—do you think that the application of similar methods to the land would raise the holdings to an economic standing?—It would better their present condition.

REV. MICHAEL M'GOWAN EXAMINED.

37625. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are parish priest of Greenacres?—Yes, and I wish to give evidence in confirmation of what Father M'Cann has been giving. We have divided our evidence into four parts. I will give my part, and two or three others coming after me will give their parts, and the whole should cover all the ground. When you understand the position of my parish of Greenacres, I hope I shall be able to place before you sufficient data to enable you to recommend that it should be scheduled as a congested district.

37626. That is the main object of your evidence?—Yes.

37627. What do you wish to tell us about Greenacres?—Owing to its elevated position, the mean height being about 700 feet above the level of the sea, the whole parish of Greenacres is very much

37613. Certainly. Anything would better their present condition, but do you think it would raise their holdings to an economic standing and enable the people to make a decent livelihood out of the improved holdings?—Even with the greatest improvement conceivable it would be difficult to make the holdings comfortable or economical.

37614. I notice that for the union of Cookstown 53 per cent. of the holdings are under the economic standard?—Yes.

37615. Do you think that something auxiliary to the improvement of the land would be necessary in order to make the conditions of life satisfactory?—Yes; if there were factories or some industry to supplement what is derived from the land the people would be well enough off. But in this district the people are quite different from those on the seaboard, who have fishing to fall back on. Here they have nothing but the land.

37616. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You could not hope to have a permanent industry unless it was self-supporting?—It would be possible to start a permanent industry like a woollen mill.

37617. Would it be self-supporting?—It would in time.

37618. You have told us of the looms?—Yes, the factories killed that industry. But it would be possible to start a woollen factory or something like that which in time would pay.

37619. Mr. O'KEEFE.—In the rural districts, I suppose, there are no industries or factories?—No, they are confined to the towns.

37620. Have you in this union non-residential grazing or grass lands?—No.

37621. Take the case of a man whose home farm runs to a hundred acres, and some miles away he has another farm on which he does not live of seventy or a hundred acres. Are there any men like that in the district?—No. I am speaking for the district of Killeenman. There may be such men in the adjoining districts.

37622. Sir JOHN COLMAN.—I understood you to say that the high lands you speak of were not safe or suitable for sheep?—Yes.

37623. How do you propose to start and carry on a woollen factory in a district not suitable for sheep?—The districts adjoining such as Broughmore and Greenacres are good for sheep, and of course the wool produced in one district would not keep a factory going.

37624. Mr. BAYNE.—Is there much water power in the district?—There is excellent water power.

37625. What rivers?—The Killeen and Broughmore.

37626. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOGHUE.—Did you mean to convey to Sir John Colman that sheep could not be reared in your district?—Oh, no, but I say that considering the vast extent of area the quantity of sheep on it is relatively small.

37627. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Have you any other suggestion to make?—The only suggestion is that a parochial committee could be formed or some other body of efficient men, to apply to the district the relief we trust the Congested Districts Board will be pleased to grant it.

exposed to storms. The land is rough and mountainous, and in many places wet and marshy, and drainage is absolutely necessary. Of course I do not mean drainage on a large scale, but drainage of the wet and marshy farms. It is absolutely necessary in places to have the farms drained in order to produce any crop at all. The nature of the soil is cold, stiff and unproductive unless where well limed. Lime may be said to be indispensably necessary for the land throughout the whole district, and no other measure can take its place. That has been proved, but unfortunately lime cannot be procured within a distance of thirteen or fourteen miles, and as a large number of the householders cannot keep a horse and come to Cookstown, they cannot procure the lime. The result is that the crops on these farms are very poor.

Aug. 24, 1907.

Rev. Thomas M'Cann.

Rev. Michael M'Gowan.

May 15, 1907.

Mr. Michael
McGowan.

37631. Mr. BRYCE.—What is the geological formation of Greenacres?—I cannot exactly answer that question, but I think it is what is called whinstone.

37632. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—With a blue sub-soil?—Yes.

37633. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What are the roads like?—The roads are very hilly. I understand the Commission are going to Gortin, and if you motor straight through from here you will go over a switch-back, because it is up and down all the way from here to Gortin. As a consequence of these bad roads farmers are not able to draw more than half an ordinary load to the district from the towns and railway station, or to the market towns from the district. The hilly nature of the ground is a serious obstacle to the proper cultivation of the farms. In fact I think a very strong argument of the necessity of this district being subdivided as congested is what I saw to-day coming to Cookstown. I passed a large number of cars, and would you believe it, the produce the farmers had to sell in Cookstown was turf. I was really surprised at it. That was the only produce they seemed to have, and you can well imagine how poor these people are when they have nothing to sell in the market except some turf they take from the bog.

37634. Sir JOHN CORNUM.—Are you aware that a large district in West Connemara entirely relies on the turf industry which is a most important industry?—Oh, yes, I am sure of that, if the people have some means of making it pay. But other witnesses who follow will likely tell you all about that.

37635. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What about the land?—The land has been largely reclaimed from the rough mountain sides. There are two rivers running through my parish, and they divide it into three or four mountain ridges. The land has been reclaimed from these rough mountain ridges, and when left uncultivated for a few years it returns to its original barren and worthless state. I was speaking to a gentleman the other day who is perhaps here as a voluntary witness, and he told me that his land had been reclaimed, and if left uncultivated for a few years it was much more difficult to crop than if he was about to reclaim it for the first time.

37636. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But is that peculiar to Tyrone—does it not apply to all reclaimed land?—It is peculiar to this one district, which forms a belt for twelve miles between Cookstown and Strabane.

37637. All reclaimed land if it is not kept cultivated will go back to its original state?—A large quantity of the land in this district has gone back.

37638. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The point Mr. Kavanagh is putting to you is that all reclaimed land has a natural disposition to revert back to its original state?—Yes.

37639. It is only by keeping such land cultivated that it can be kept reclaimed?—Yes, but most land will improve if left out for a few years, but this land instead of improving gets worse.

37640. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You agree with Mr. Kavanagh that reclaimed land requires cultivation?—Yes, certainly.

37641. In any part of the county it is the same; if reclaimed land is not kept cultivated it will go back to its original state?—Yes.

37642. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Have you anything to say about the holdings?—Yes. The Government valuation per acre of the whole parish is on an average about 2s. or a little over, including the valuation of houses. The holdings generally are small, and are not self-supporting. Several do not exceed ten acres, and one-fourth at least is not over twenty acres. Five acres of good land would produce more crop than the twenty acres. There is a gentleman here to-day who has sixty acres, and he tells me he could not live on that without hiring out his children, so you can imagine what class of land the sixty acres are when they are not able to support a man and a few children.

37643. Sir JOHN CORNUM.—Can you give the valuation and rent of the holding?—It is in Baginbun district and the tenant can tell you that. I said one-fourth of the entire holdings in the parish would not be over twenty acres. Out of the 426 holdings only forty-nine are 200 valuation and over, and 50 per cent. would be 25 valuation and under, and even

of those of \$30 and over few could be said to be self-supporting. I scarcely know a holding in the entire parish which I could say was self-supporting, and I might also say that there is not an economic holding in the parish, because I take an economic farm to be one that will support an average family, giving them decent support after paying rent and taxes. I think that is as low an estimate as we can put it at. In this parish the rent is usually paid and the families supported by money from America or elsewhere. Potatoes and oats are the main support of the people of the district, and when the summer turns out wet these crops are generally very poor. Consequently these people are worse off than those living on the seaboard with smaller holdings, because they can supplement their incomes by fishing, but when the crops fail here the men have nothing to fall back upon. There are no industries and when the crops fail they are almost in starvation. Their mode of living is certainly very simple. It consists of potatoes and milk, with a little bread and tea, and now and then a salt herring or a piece of coarse American bacon. Yet, even at that rate of modest living, most of them found it impossible to support their families, and as a consequence most of the adult young men and women find it necessary to emigrate to America or some other country to seek a livelihood for themselves and contribute to the support of their parents at home and the younger children. These young children, as Father McCann has told you, are hired out at a very tender age, some of them at as low, I believe, as eight years of age. From experience I can testify that the people of Greenacres parish are an industrious people if only they had a chance of advancing themselves. They are willing to co-operate, to the best of their power, with any efforts made to improve their condition. I can give you an example of this. I was appointed parish priest of Greenacres in January, 1903. There was very little of the land allocated. A large portion of it was in grass, and a very poor class of grazing, so that the people depended in a great measure on their live stock and especially the milk cows. I found the people were making nothing of their milk and were selling their milk at 6d., and sometimes 5d. per pound. That was their principal support, and I asked these people to co-operate and form a co-operative society. They declined to do so. Of course they were not able to contribute much, as they were poor, but they took a few shares and with the assistance rendered from the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society we were able to form a co-operative society. The people gave the labour. They collected stones and materials for building the creamery. I got a few men to go out to 6,000 in the bank, and the creamery has now been in use a half year working, and during last year it stood fourth in all Ireland. I think poor people who clabbed together like that and formed a creamery deserve the greatest credit and should be encouraged and helped. There is a spirit of advance among farmers at present. They wish to advance and as desirous and glad if they only get a chance to do so. I think that spirit should be encouraged and fostered. To show that the people are anxious to improve if they only get the chance, I may say that the creamery I have referred to brought in last year 25,000. That was the turnover. You might think that is a good deal coming into a district, but when it is scattered over three hundred families it does not mean so much.

37644. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Did the whole of the 25,000 worth of butter come from this particular district?—Yes.

37645. That is hardly consistent with the previous witness's description of the absolute sterility of the pasturage?—It took a large number of cows to milk it up. Of course there is a hardy class of cattle that do not give much milk, which are suited to the district, as they are able to live on the kind of pasturage they get there.

37646. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Have you been speaking of the same district?—Not altogether.

37647. One reason, and perhaps the leading reason, that induced you to get the people to start a creamery was because the price paid for butter was so bad and the house accommodation for milk and butter was not adequate?—That is so; it was by no means adequate.

37648. With the accommodation the people had paid butter could not be turned out?—It could not.

37649. The creamery gave you that advantage?—

Yes.

37650. And the milk could be properly treated?—

Yes, with the results I have stated.

37651. Sir JOHN COOMES.—Your turn over was £5,000; would that mean £17 for each house?—Of course you have to take working expenses, which would be 10 per cent. out of that.

37652. That working expense would mean £500?—

Yes.

37653. Leaving £15 for each house?—Yes.

37654. Previous to starting the Co-operative Society what did each house get?—If some of them got £2 or £3 they would be satisfied. Some of them might get nothing at all.

37655. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What is the price of the milk?—Our calculation is per pound of butter fat. We do not calculate it by milk.

37656. You do not buy the milk?—No, it is co-operative.

37657. What price per pound do you get for butter?—Our average price during the past year was something like 1s. per pound.

37658. Was that for salt butter?—Yes. Our creamery stood fourth place in Ireland.

37659. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That is very creditable. But I take it while the creamery has its advantages, it has its disadvantages. Have the people the same plentiful supply of milk in the house now as they had before the introduction of the creamery?—They have a very good system. They keep Saturday night's and Sunday morning's milk for the use of the house. They churn it, and it serves them for butter and milk for the rest of the week.

37660. That is your expedient for providing butter and milk for the household?—Yes.

37661. Mr. BAXTER.—What is done with the waste milk from the creamery?—It is given largely to calves.

37662. Is it found that calves flourish as well on separated milk as on new milk?—Yes, I have experience of it. I keep a couple of calves myself. I give them the new milk for the first three or four weeks. Afterwards I give them as much separated milk with a little linseed meal as they like. When that is done you have splendid calves.

37663. There has been different evidence regarding that in other places?—I know that very well, but such evidence is generally given by people who do not speak from experience. I have found many people condemning creameries, and I have always found that these were the very people who knew nothing about them.

I am very glad indeed to hear that.

37664. Mr. O'KELLY.—Have you heard that in County Limerick there have been complaints regarding the deterioration of cattle owing to the calves being reared on separated milk?—That is just like other cries we hear. There is the cry that the human race is deteriorating. If calves are deteriorating it is not the fault of the creameries, but of the people who do not feed them properly.

37665. Have you ever heard that cattle dealers have refused to buy cattle at fairs since the introduction of the creamery system because the quality has so considerably fallen?—I have not heard that.

37666. Do you suggest that separated milk plus some linseed meal is substantially equivalent to ordinary milk as a feed for calves?—I believe it is. The linseed meal gives a fat which the same to the calves as the fat of the milk.

37667. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You would not give the calves separated milk and linseed meal until they were a certain number of weeks old?—No; for the first four weeks I would feed them altogether on new milk.

37668. Nothing could take the place of new milk for the first four or five weeks?—That is so.

37669. If the Limerick calves are deteriorating it is really the fault of the farmers and not of the creamery system?—I believe so. The same holds good regarding the starvation of children. If mothers do not look after their children they starve them.

37670. Have you found that the effect of creameries has been to lower the amount of tillage in the country?—No. If farmers are to keep their cows during the winter they must till more. Farmers must till the land in order to have fodder for the cattle during the winter, and I do not see how the creamery system could in any way interfere with tillage.

37671. We have had evidence to the contrary. It has been stated that when a creamery appears in the

country tillage disappears?—That is not my experience.

37672. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are you able to keep up a supply of milk during the winter?—Yes.

37673. Mr. BAXTER.—Are green crops grown for feeding cattle in the winter?—Unfortunately we are not able to have enough on account of the quality of the soil. There is only about 15 per cent. of the land cultivated, and in one portion of Broughbeg there is only about 10 per cent. although that townland consists of about 4,000 acres.

37674. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Have you any other suggestion to make?—Yes. I think if the district were placed under the Congested Districts Board much could be done by the Board to ameliorate the condition of the people through a parish committee. I was for a few months chairman of a parish committee, and ever since I have taken an interest in the working of parish committees. I think whoever was the author of parish committees deserves the gratitude of the poor.

Mr. O'KELLY.—I understand Father Denis O'Hara is the author.

37675. Mr. BAXTER.—Where had you the experience of a parish committee?—It was in Inishkeen. We had plans drawn up for our work, but I happened to get a parish and I left the working of the scheme in the hands of the committee. But I was greatly impressed with the good work such a committee could do. It can do a great deal of good for the poor of a parish, because the members of the committee know the locality, they know the people, and they know the best means of assisting them. I do not say it through flattery, but honestly and sincerely as an expression of my opinion, that there are two bodies, and only two bodies, which have done a great deal for the poor in Ireland. They are the Congested Districts Board and the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. If it had not been for the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society the people would never have had a creamery at Greencastle, and the people would have been half starving. The Congested Districts Board had done an immense amount of good for the country, and I hope the Commission will be able to recommend that the parish of Greencastle should be placed under the Board. A parish committee, acting under the directions of the Congested Districts Board, and with a reasonable amount of funds at their disposal, could do an immense amount of good in the parish of Greencastle by improving the dwellings and surroundings, assisting the farmers to drain, fence, and lime their farms, and by starting industries. I would like to give evidence of the different valuations in the parish.

37676. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is the extent of the largest holding?—There is one holding in Broughbeg of 500 acres, but it is only a grazing farm. Some others go up to 120 acres, but, as I have already told you, a holding of 50 acres was not able to support a man and his family.

37677. Mr. BAXTER.—Is the grazing farm you refer to held on the eleven months system?—I could not tell really how it is held. The total number of holdings in the parish is 429. Of these the number at £10 and over is 69. Between £9 and £10, 21; between £8 and £9, 31; between £7 and £8, 25; between £6 and £7, 46; between £5 and £6, 62; between £4 and £5, 78; between £3 and £4, 84; between £2 and £3, 89; 52 and under, 25. 89.6 of these holdings are under £10 valuation. About 106 of the holdings are not over 80 acres in area, and about 14 holdings are not over 10 acres in area. In the townland of Broughbeg about 10 per cent. of the land is arable. In the rest of the parish about 15 per cent. of the land is arable.

37678. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say there are 25 holdings valued at £2 and under. Are these holdings on which people attempt to live or are they cropped by people who have got another business?—I could not say about all of them, but on a large number of these holdings the people are attempting to live on them.

37679. Mr. BAXTER.—Are the people in your district much indebted to the shopkeepers?—Some of them are indeed.

37680. Do they always buy on credit?—Well, as soon as we got the creamery started we established an agricultural bank. The one helps the other. Since then I think the people have done a little better. At any rate I think they are improving.

37681. They are getting more into the way of making cash payments?—Yes.

May 15, 1907.

Rev. Michael
McGowan

Mr. SEAMUS MORRIS examined.

May 25, 1907.

Mr. Seamus Morris.

37682. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You also wish to speak about Greenacastle?—Yes.

37683. Are you a farmer?—I am.

37684. What is your acreage?—Eighty acres, statute.

37685. And your rent?—£2 15s.

37686. And the valuation?—£55.

37687. Mr. O'KEEFE.—What kind of land have you got?—Only eight acres are arable; the rest is rough mountain grazing.

37688. Is your rent a second term rent?—No, a first term rent.

37689. What is your nearest town?—Omagh.

37690. How many miles is it from your place?—About nine.

37691. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What evidence do you wish to give?—I wish, first of all to speak of the dwellings in the Greenacastle district. In my opinion they are not as comfortable or as sanitary as they should be. Very many of them are very much in need of improvements which could be effected at little expense. The sills require to be drained, the windows enlarged, damp earthen floors cleared out and replaced by cement or boards. In some instances, where the house accommodation for the family is too limited, an additional room should be built. As the majority of the dwellings are but one story high and thatched, the erection of such a room would cost only a trifling sum, while the advantage would be considerable.

37692. Mr. BAYCE.—Do the people ever have cattle in the dwelling-house?—I have seen calves brought in for a few days.

37693. How many rooms would an ordinary house contain?—A kitchen and one room.

37694. And the whole family would live in that one room?—Yes.

37695. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And there might be the old people besides the family?—There might be a family of four or five. I have known families of five, six, and up to thirteen and fourteen living in a house of two apartments—a kitchen and room.

37696. Mr. BAYCE.—And sometimes a calf, too?—That might happen too.

37697. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—We have not heard if any pigs are kept in Greenacastle?—Yes, pigs are kept.

37698. Mr. BAYCE.—Do the pigs ever live in the house with the family?—I should say not; I have never seen it.

37699. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is your next suggestion?—I would suggest that manure heaps should be removed further from the dwellings, and all composts drained off and cleared up.

37700. Sir JOHN COLCLOUGH.—It is against the sanitary laws to have manure heaps and composts at the doors of the dwellinghouses. I presume there are sanitary officers in this district paid to see that these laws are complied with?—Well, in some cases it is not done.

37701. Does the Rural District Council not make the sanitary officers do the work for which they are paid?—I could not say.

37702. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You are referring to country districts?—Yes.

37703. Suppose the sanitary laws to which Sir John Colclough refers were put into operation, would it not inflict unnecessary hardship on the people who are not well enough off to afford to enlarge their houses?—They are not, without aid, able to enlarge their houses.

37704. Sir JOHN COLCLOUGH.—My point was not with reference to the enlargement of houses, but the manure heaps and composts. What I asked was if the sanitary officers attended to the work for which they are paid, of seeing that those heaps are removed from the proximity of the houses?—I have never seen the sanitary officers seeing after that at all.

37705. Mr. O'KEEFE.—While it is undesirable, it does not necessarily follow that the close proximity of these manure heaps to the houses makes for unhealthy conditions. I presume if the sanitary officer does his duty he will view the manure heaps and report whether a prosecution should come or not?—That is so.

37706. Is the town the sanitary officers look carefully after the sanitary conditions of the people?—Yes. My point is, if our district was placed under the Congested Districts Board, and the people got some encouragement, they would remove these manure heaps themselves without any person interfering but the parish committee.

37707. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—It would be a condition precedent to their getting a grant that they should do so?—Yes.

37708. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is your next suggestion?—I suggest that the houses should be lime-washed once a year and occasionally disinfected.

37709. Sir JOHN COLCLOUGH.—But is that not seen to by the sanitary officers as a matter of ordinary routine?—I do not think so. Some of the houses are lime-washed once a year, but I believe all should be lime-washed. Then the out-offices require improvement even more than the dwellings. I am anxious that inadequate shelter for farm animals during the winter season causes great loss to the struggling farmers in our district. Partly through this cause of partly through want of expert assistance the mortality every year in farm animals in the Greenacastle district is very great. A boon would be conferred on the district if an experienced local man, preferably a veterinary surgeon, were appointed as inspector of the cow sheds and other out-offices, and asked to reside in the district in order to have an opportunity of regularly visiting the farmers' out-offices, with a view of suggesting improvements and causing them to be carried out wherever he thought they were necessary.

37710. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Have you no veterinary surgeon now?—We have not one within a radius of twelve miles from where I live.

37711. But are there not veterinary surgeons appointed by the County Council?—I do not know; they do not reach us. I never heard of any being appointed by the County Council, and it would be very desirable that such an officer should be appointed to look after the district; it would certainly be very profitable to us.

37712. To look after your district exclusively?—Well, the district from here to Strabane, if you wish.

37713. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You think it would be desirable that these poor districts should in some way have the advantages of a veterinary surgeon?—Yes.

37714. Sir JOHN COLCLOUGH.—You do not mean that's should lecture on veterinary science, but to attend to the stock that are sick?—Yes, and he could render great service in other ways. He could visit the farmhouses and see that the out-offices were properly kept.

37715. Are there no veterinary surgeons under the Department in County Tyrone?—I cannot say, but none ever visit us.

37716. Have you had any outbreaks of disease among cattle and horses?—I have not heard of any. I have known plenty of deaths among the stock, but I do not know the cause.

37717. I know in other counties the Department have veterinary surgeons?—If anything could be done in that respect in our district it would be very useful. I consider it should also be the duty of such an officer to inspect the dairies, and insist on cleanliness, which should be more in evidence there as well as in the dwellings and out-offices.

37718. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you mean much to advise; you would not give him power to make improvements in the dairy?—I would give him power to insist on improvement where he thought it was necessary. Of course the difficulty would be the more for this officer. I would suggest that his salary should be contributed partly by the locality wherein he is employed and partly by the Congested Districts Board, if we are lucky enough to get under their system, supplemented by fees for cases in which he would be specially employed. At present we have no veterinary surgeon within a radius of ten or twelve miles. They know people to go for them that distance. But when he arrived here the animal was either dead or past recovery. I wish also to say a few words about drainage, which is also very much required in our district and could be effected cheaply. The patches of low unhealthy looking grass, the prevalence of reeds, sedges, and other water plants in the permanent pasture show unmistakably the need for drainage. Drainage improves the yield of crops, brings the harvest in earlier, banishes disease, and makes the land healthier for man and beast. Drainage is also the first step in reclamation, which could be carried out in many of the holdings in Greenacastle district, and, in my mind, it should be encouraged and aided financially with a view to getting more crops from the farms.

37719. Sir JOHN COLCLOUGH.—Coming along from Det-

gannon I was very much struck with the wet state

May 25, 1907.

Mr. Selous,
Mack.

of the land. At length I saw that there were cuts along the land about four feet wide and deep, and that every one of these cuts was choked by weeds of evidently two or three years growth and by dirt. These open drains were all stopped, and therefore the land was wet. How do you account for that?—The drains must have been neglected, and not cleared out during the winter.

37720. In the districts you know intimately do the people keep the drains thoroughly clear in order to carry away the water?—As far as I know I believe they do, but at the same time there is a great deal more required in the way of drainage.

37721. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have you drained a good deal of your own land?—Fortunately our land is pretty dry.

37722. Is it by tillage or stock you chiefly live?—We do a little of both.

37723. You urge drainage for your district?—Yes. I am confident that drainage would improve the yield of the crops very much. I have seen fields in a wet season in which the crops would grow for a few weeks and then disappear soaked with wet. In dry and well-drained land the crops would not only give a better yield, but would be earlier, and as I have said the locality would be healthier.

37724. Sir James O'Shea.—Do you think that is generally understood by the small farmers?—I do not think it is.

37725. Is it because the people were ignorant of the disadvantages of waterlogged land that all the open cuts or drains in the district I have referred to were allowed to choke up?—It is partly because they are ignorant of the great advantages of drainage and also because they require a little stimulus to set them to work. There is room for reclamation in our district. There is scarcely a holding where there is not bad, rough mountain grass in connection with it, and if we had assistance some of that could be reclaimed. The first step towards that would be drainage, and I therefore think drainage should be encouraged in every way.

37726. You think it would be well if the land were drained?—Yes; it would pay the cost of drainage.

37727. Then why don't the people drain their land?—Partly because they have not the means to carry it out.

37728. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—We are met with two complaints. One is that there is no employment for young men, and the other is that the land is going from bad to worse, because there is no labour to employ upon it. Now, the small holders are not fully occupied upon their own land and why wouldn't the larger holders employ them?—I do not know whether that would pay or not, but I am sure drainage would improve the holding and pay for the cost.

37729. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The farmer who carried out drainage would require to have some capital in his hands to pay the labourers?—Yes.

37730. Unless his own sons were equal to the work?—Yes.

37731. Under the county scheme for the improvement of agriculture are there any prizes given for the reclamation of mountain land or such land as you have described?—No; there are no prizes given, as far as I know, for that. That is what I am addressing. I think if the people got some little encouragement in the way of prizes it would set them to work.

37732. Do you think would prizes suffice, or should there be some intervention covering part of the expenditure?—If we could get something to cover part of the expenditure it would be better, but in the absence of that prizes would do good.

37733. Suppose there was a system of prizes combined with adding a little to the annuity in repayment of drainage loans on reasonable terms?—Yes; I believe that would work well.

37734. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is the next point you wish to mention?—To my mind there is painful evidence of the absence of proper methods of agriculture in the districts. The fields are of all shapes and sizes. Some small and some large, and I think it would be a great advantage if all that could be changed, and the fields cut up into square or oblong shape, size of about an acre and more.

37735. You do not think that could be left to the occupier?—I think he should be directed in the matter.

37736. What he really wants is technical education?—I do not know what it would be, but such a change would improve the farmers' holdings.

37737. A general improvement of system would be an excellent thing, but I want to know how you are to bring it about. Will you compel the small holder to carry it out if he does not wish to do so?—I would not compel them, because I believe if they were advised by a parish committee they would do the work.

37738. You would like to have them advised and instructed that it would be better for themselves if they altered the size of their fields?—Yes; and adopted another system of agriculture altogether.

37739. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would you think that a competent instructor resident in a district and working a farm himself would be of great advantage to the country?—Yes. I believe that would be a capital idea. The people, at present, get no instruction in agriculture except a few lectures from itinerant instructors.

37740. A practical man would be better for your locality?—Yes.

37741. The lectures have not much effect?—I do not think so.

37742. Do the people attend them?—Yes; but my experience is that these lectures are of doubtful utility, partly from the inability of the farmers to follow, or rather comprehend the substance of the lectures, and partly from lack of knowledge of the particular wants of the locality by the instructors themselves.

37743. Were the lecturers not conversant with their subject?—I do not say that, but they did not know the wants of the locality as well as the people who resided there.

37744. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Did you hear what a farmer in County Leitrim said—that he could learn more from the agricultural columns of the "Weekly Freeman," which costs only a penny, than from all the agricultural lectures that went round?—I did not hear that, but probably there is a good deal in it.

37745. Mr. BARRY.—Is there any think the example plot and farm better than itinerant lecturers?—I am confident that is the only way of showing to these people how to improve their methods.

37746. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—To show to these people the proper cultivation of the class of land they have and not the cultivation of a better class of land?—Yes.

37747. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you wish to tell the Commission anything further?—Yes; I wish to say, as another witness has mentioned, that we are deeply indebted to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society for expert assistance given by them to us at the erection of our creamery, and for very valuable information as to its profitable working. Later on the Agricultural Department have also assisted us in this industry. I believe if we had a parish committee in connection with the Congested Districts Board, improvements could be carried through without much difficulty. I wish to address the evidence given to-day that the farmers of the Greenacres district are, on the whole, very industrious, and not only willing, but anxious to co-operate in any movement for their own advancement and the general good, but they require a little stimulus such as the Congested Districts Board could give. Unfortunately there is a vast amount of acreage of moor in one or two estates in the parish. These acreage began to accumulate in the early eighties, when the seasons were bad and the crops poor. Farmers found it difficult to get even the bare necessities of life. That told against the farmers also. It is ardently to be wished that something will be done to keep these industrious peasants on the land and stem the tide of emigration before it is too late.

37748. Mr. BARRY.—Has the land mostly been sold in your district or is it held by the tenants?—It is held by the tenants.

37749. Under judicial rents?—Yes.

37750. Under mostly first or second term rents?—Mostly second term.

37751. What is the custom regarding the sale of stock. Do the farmers mostly sell at six months, a year, or eighteen months?—They sell at all ages as they can spare them.

37752. Eighteen months is the usual time, I suppose?—I do not think so. It is generally at two or three years old.

37753. They find it to their advantage to hold them, feeding them with as much poor stuff as they can manage?—Yes; but to get that feeding is a great drawback.

May 25, 1897.

Sir Solomon
Morris.

37754. When the stock is sold does it go straight to England or Scotland, or to the hands of the graziers in Ireland?—Probably into the hands of graziers, because the stock has never been properly fattened.

37755. Do they go to graziers in Ireland or across the Channel?—I believe both.

37756. Are there any industries in your part of the country except farming?—No; there are none.

37757. And they do not go to work in factories in other districts?—No.

Rev. T. L. F. Spack examined.

Rev. T. L. F.
Spack.

37761. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You are Rector of Drumquin?—I am.

37762. What Union is Drumquin in?—One electoral division of Drumquin is in Omagh Union, and another Drumquin electoral division is in Castlederg Union.

37763. Do you belong to the Drumquin division of the Omagh Union?—My house is in the Drumquin division of Castlederg Union, but I represent the whole parish of Longfield. I may say the village of Drumquin is situated in the parish of Longfield, known as East and West Longfield, County Tyrone. It is nine miles west from Omagh, ten miles south-west of Newtownstewart, and sixteen miles north-east of Lower Lough Erne. The surrounding district approaches South Down, and partakes largely of its general mountainous characteristics. As regards its situation with reference to railways, I may say this is extremely tantalising and disadvantageous, and has for a long time handicapped trade and industry. We are completely surrounded by railways, partly those of the Great Northern system and partly those of the Midland, operating in West Down, and yet the nearest station, Omagh, is over nine miles distant. The only method of transit for goods and agricultural produce is by cart.

37764. Leaving out the question of stations, what is the nearest point the railway runs towards Drumquin?—There is a place called Drumquin Crossing, which is a mile and a-half nearer to us than Omagh. In the last century Drumquin was a place of considerable importance and traffic, being a station on the old coach route between Londonderry and Enniskillen. Markets and fairs were prosperous, and there were some local industries, including the tanning of leather and small woollen mills. But all that has been changed since the advent of the railway, and the population of the village and surrounding neighbourhood has steadily declined. The district is entirely agricultural. The holdings small, except a few large mountain farms, and the land of inferior quality.

37765. The rents are considerably lower than the valuation?—Yes. They are lower as a rule. Although the average rating works out low, as I shall be able to give you in detail, it is believed that too high a valuation was put upon it as a whole by Griffith's Commissioners. It is alleged that this district was valued towards the close of the work of that Commission, and that the Commissioners were influenced by some little temporary improvement in the prices of agricultural produce.

37766. What are the resources of the district?—There are undeveloped mineral resources. The district contains much mineral wealth. There is an inexhaustible supply of the very best limestone and freestone, and seams of coal occur in the western side. Indications of iron and mica abound, and garnets have been found in one of the mountain streams. In view of those resources it was at one time intended to construct a canal to Lough Erne, and surveys were actually made.

37767. Where would the canal have ended?—Drumquin.

37768. You said you would give some details of valuation?—Yes. The total acreage of the parish is given as 28,446 acres and the valuation as £5,603, or an average of 4s. 1d. per acre. Many townlands only average 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d., while in the western section a number are even lower. For example Meenagh has an acreage of 883, valuation, 245 15s., or an average of one shilling per acre. Meenachan, acreage 731, valuation £26 5s., average 1s. Castlederg, acreage 443, valuation £22 10s., average 9d. Tully, acreage

37769. Coal is being worked at Coalishall?—Yes, but that is twelve or thirteen miles away from us.

37769. Sir JOHN COSMAN.—Do you wish the Commission to understand that the small holders of poor bad land, and with little or no knowledge of proper agricultural methods, keep their cattle until they are two or three years old?—They have to sell some in calves to meet demands, but if they can afford it they keep them to that age.

37770. What do they actually do with their young stock?—They sell them at all ages.

37771. valuation £20, average 6d. Ally, acreage 1,144, valuation £22, average 4d. As regards population, Drumquin village had in 1871 over 400 inhabitants. At the last census that had fallen to 230. The census returns of the whole parish are—1861, 5,364 inhabitants; 1871, 4,785; 1881, 3,996, or a loss within the two decades of 1,438. This is equal to 26 per cent, and is a little more than the whole present population of East Longfield. So that the population of the parish has been literally wiped out by the process of emigration and decay going on over the country.

37770. How do you account for the decline in the population?—Well, the district is entirely agricultural, but it may be roughly described as half mountains and bog, and is manifestly incapable of supporting those who are dependent on it. The opinion of competent judges well acquainted with the facts is that over the whole parish not more than 20 per cent. of the householders are in a solvent condition, notwithstanding other varying and irregular sources of supplementary income. I would not give that opinion myself, as I think it is too bad an estimate, but this is undoubtedly the opinion of a man much better acquainted with the district than I am. He holds that if the men were sold up, tenant-right, stock, and all, they could not pay 20s. in the £1. Many of the female inmates of a house work weary hours, sometimes far into the night, at underclothing and embroidery to the manifest injury to their health and good looks. Other householders receive sums of money from friends in America and the Colonies. Many are borrowing from the local banks on four month bills, renewing again and again at perhaps six per cent. or even higher, as long as the bank will permit. Very many have discovered that a bill running in winter is the only way to shorten that season.

37770. When the banks cease to renew what happens?—The farmers are then bankrupt, and are sold up, but the banks are fairly reasonable. I know a case where a man has gone on credit for twenty years and he has hardly reduced his bill at all. But for all that he is in a good position and will shortly be able to reduce the overdraft.

37771. Sir JOHN COSMAN.—And the bank has all that time been receiving interest?—Yes. I have for a fact that on small bills the banks get as much as 8 per cent.

37772. Mr. BRYCE.—Are the people largely in debt to the shopkeepers?—The credit system in the shops is almost universally taken advantage of, and it is no uncommon thing for farmers to have accounts open in several shops, and even in distant towns, and to pay on a sort of retentive system, and at long intervals. It is a matter of common knowledge that a large amount of money is still due in the neighbourhood to the Drumquin Loan Fund Society, and notwithstanding special legislation and very efficient management and efforts to recover, it is to be feared that it may pass the wit of man, to use a Gladstonian phrase, and all the machinery of the law is scarce payment in many cases.

37773. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—What is the next point?—I have referred to the difficulties of transit, but we believe we are justified in regarding the want of proper methods of transit and excessive railway rates, as one of the chief causes of the decay of the agricultural industry in Ireland, and in the connection I would like to emphasise the fact submitted in evidence before the Vice-regal Commission on Irish Railways that the rates to Omagh, a principal station, are in some instances more than four times the rate per ton-mile to terminal stations like Londonderry and Belfast, and thus we suffer the reflex action of those unequal charges. I am

mention that the price of corn works out something like 4-4 times per ton mile greater from Derry to Omagh, than from Derry to Dublin.

37774. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—That will hold good for all inland towns like Omagh and Enniskillen—I do not know about Enniskillen, but it holds for Omagh, for I was the delegate appointed by our district, to give evidence before the Vice-regal Commission on Railways.

37775. Sir JOHN COLSON.—Have you given your evidence before the Commission yet?—I have.

37776. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is your next point?—I would like to say that no public or parliamentary money has hitherto been spent in our district. That is absolutely true as regards the last half-century, but we look now for better things from a Government professedly friendly to Ireland, and respectfully appeal to the Commission to consider the evidence put before you. I trust you may be able to recommend the inclusion of our district in the congested area, so that we shall be no longer disadvantaged by our isolation, nor continue to witness the melancholy spectacle of our population dwindling steadily away, for want of permanent industries to keep them at home, happy, prosperous and content.

37777. You recommended that your district should be scheduled as congested, and treated to all these advantages which the Congested Districts Board extends to districts within its province?—That is so. That is the principal point. I would like to emphasize on behalf of the district. I may say I was appointed to give evidence here by a meeting representative of all the inhabitants of the parish. Rev. Father Kelly, the parish priest, the business and professional men, and farmers were present. Much against my will I was appointed, for I thought there were others who could have done far better.

37778. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You have done very well?—Thank you, my lord, but there are one or two points I would like to enlarge upon. I think the great rescue of Ireland would be the improvement of the agricultural industry of the country. In support of that statement I point to Denmark. It is a fact beyond dispute that thirty years ago Denmark was practically bankrupt, and at present it is the fourth richest country in the world. That change is almost entirely due to the development of agriculture.

37779. Mr. BAYCE.—You were fourth richest per head of the population?—Yes, of course, for Denmark is a small country. I think either England or the United States stands first or second, then France, and then Denmark. Denmark was bankrupt thirty-five years ago, and the rescue of that country is due almost exclusively to the development of agriculture. There was a Commission sent over to Denmark three years ago by the Scottish Royal Agricultural Society to study agriculture there. The same Commission visited Ireland about twelve months ago and came to Omagh and Enniskillen. I got into communication with one member, Mr. Drunlop, and I asked him was it a fact that in Denmark the yield of milk per acre was six times that of Ireland. He did not exactly say that was so, but he did not contradict the statement. I then asked him how the climate and soil of Denmark stood as compared with Ireland and he said the climate and soil of Ireland were twenty-five per cent. better than Denmark. I would suggest that a model farm on the Danish system in our district would do immense good. The farm could be bought economically enough, and worked on the Danish system so as to show to the people what could really be taken out of the land. There is no doubt that if the people had this instruction and profited by it, it would be the means of really rescuing Ireland.

37780. And if ever that farm were put up for sale again it would bring a far better price in the market?—It would, far better. Concurrent with the model farm I think there should be improved education.

37781. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Improved agricultural education?—Yes. I may say to show how highly trained are the farmers in Denmark that the man on twelve acres of land will have a balance sheet worth the same as a grocery company. I have seen these or four of these balance sheets published. There the man on twelve acres will rear his wife and children in comfort, and at the end of the year, after

paying all expenses, he will be able to lay by £20 of profit. That is the average case in Denmark. Inside five years by improved methods the Danes have succeeded in many instances in raising the average yield of milk per cow by a hundred gallons per year. In other words a cow started giving three hundred gallons of milk per year, and at the end of five years the cow would be giving eight hundred gallons of milk, a steady rise of a hundred gallons per year. They went out the bad cows, and have a magnificent system of inspection. Twenty or thirty farmers may stick together, and a Government inspector is sent down, and each cow is inspected each week.

37782. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Denmark has protective tariffs?—Yes, but I think they are not very high tariffs.

37783. Would you say that the prosperity of Denmark is at all due to protection?—My own personal opinion, and that of the district I represent, is that protection is one of the principal things we want in this country.

37784. Mr. BAYCE.—Is it not the case that in Denmark there are only small duties on manufactured articles, and no duties on agricultural produce, so that Denmark is practically a free trade country?—Articles of food stuffs are, I think, admitted free.

37785. Mr. O'Kearney.—Do your remarks regarding the conditions in which the people live extend to the whole unions of Cookstown and Omagh, or are they applicable only to your own district?—I am not going outside my own parish.

37786. You would like to have that parish scheduled?—Yes, the two parishes.

37787. Those are the parishes, one is Omagh and the other in Castlerock Union?—The parishes of East and West Longfield.

37788. Do you consider they are congested?—Yes, because I imagine a congested district is a district which under present conditions is not able to support its population.

37789. Are these parishes over valued?—Compared with the rest of Ireland I think they are.

37790. Sir JOHN COLSON.—How long have you been in the parish?—About twenty-eight years.

37791. Do you think the standard of living has risen during that time?—It has risen in our district. There is no doubt of that.

37792. But as an economic sense the district is going back?—I believe the district is threatened with bankruptcy. The population in two decades has declined 26 per cent., and what is going to happen in the next two decades?

37793. You know the parish of Kilgarraun in County Kerry, which is a scheduled area. Do you consider Drungain is as badly off as Kilgarraun?—I would not like to say Drungain is as badly off, but, honestly, I think it is not very far from it.

37794. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You were suggesting the improvement of agriculture?—Yes, I would like to make one or two suggestions for the improvement of agriculture and the country. In this improvement there are causes outside our power, such as Protection. But I have already suggested a model farm worked by Danes or people who know the Danish system. I would also like to suggest the Government inspection of the people's dairies and cowbunds on the Danish system, so that the yield of milk could be ascertained and scientifically increased in the same way as is done in Denmark. A most important thing would be to have a proper bull in each district. The Danes have greatly increased the yield of milk by proper bulls. They have, roughly, more than doubled the yield of milk per cow, and with their improved system of agriculture they can keep double, or perhaps three times, the number of cows on the land. I also think a really good attempt should be made to ascertain the actual capabilities of the district. The geological survey is not a quite accurate guide. I understand that the geological survey twenty years ago reported that there was no coal in India, and the locomotives were worked by timber. But engineers got leave from the Government to try for coal, with the result that some few years ago there were six million tons of coal raised in India, with the result that in some districts about fifteen factories now exist for every one before the discovery of coal. If proper bore holes were sunk with good machinery for several hundred feet, and nine of these missed the truth, if successful, would more than repay for all the expenditure. I suggest some proper method of that sort so as to see what the strata are

May 25, 1907.

Rev. T. L. Shack.

May 25 1907.

Rev. T. L. F.
Stack.

worth. Then transit is one of our greatest difficulties. A reduction of 50 per cent. in the charges of the railway companies, which could easily be made, would mean 5s. per statute acre all round to the Irish farmer.

37795. What about the shareholders of the railways?—I think the shareholders should be bought out on just and reasonable terms by the State—I would like to see partly confiscation—and the lines managed like any other great central department, such as the Post Office. I would earnestly suggest to the Commission the great benefits which would be conferred on us by some suitable means of communication by railway. If that was thought too expensive then I would suggest motor communication, something like the Irish-Pinne scheme which has been tried in England. Our roads will soon be suitable for such a service.

37796. Have you heard that the scheme has not paid in England?—Well, I believe it would pay in many parts of Ireland. Then I would like to say that reforestation would be a most valuable thing. It would give employment, and at the same time greatly improve the climate. It would also give a valuable produce in time. My final suggestion is that some efficient control of the rivers should be obtained.

37797. Do you mean in the way of drainage?—Partly that and partly to build up the lakes from which the rivers spring, so that the disastrous floods which are so frequent could be prevented.

37798. You suggest a better distribution of the flow of water by artificial means?—Yes, several hundred acres of land are periodically flooded in our district, and if the lakes could be dammed and the water held back, which would not be very expensive, that damage could be prevented.

37799. Mr. O'Kearney.—You regret the conditions that prevail in County Tyrone?—Certainly.

37800. Can you give me any idea as to the contributory causes for the state of things that obtain?—I have been dealing with agriculture, which is practically the only industry we have, and I think the first and principal cause of depression is free trade. As an instance of that, the Americans can dump down wheat in Belfast.

37801. If you are going into Tariff Reform I do not wish to follow—I have given that as one of the reasons.

37802. That answer will be sufficient for me?—Free Trade has destroyed Irish agriculture, and that remark applies to the agricultural districts in England as well to a great degree, perhaps almost to an equal degree, as to Ireland. The next cause is excessive railway rates and difficulties of transit. Then the intemperance habits of the people is a contributory cause of agricultural depression. More than thirteen millions of money are spent on alcohol by the people of this country in the year, and I would put the landlord here thereby at perhaps twice or three times that sum. I think I am under the mark when I say that forty millions of money is the amount of loss to the country every year by the abuse of alcohol. If that could be corrected the country would be immensely benefited. A principal cause, perhaps the chief of all, is the political agitation and unrest, which is rendering property insecure, frightening away capital and diverting men's thoughts from the economic development of the country. If that agitation could cease, and the whole energy of the people be concentrated on the development of their material resources, this would probably do more than any other single cause to raise the country to a position of permanent prosperity. These are the principal causes, but technical education is fundamentally necessary for the advancement of the country.

37803. You think a great hardship was inflicted on this country when the Government of the day applied Free Trade to it?—Yes, I think Free Trade has ruined the country.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—We will take your opinions on Free Trade, but it is rather a large question for us to discuss.

Witness.—You may take my opinions as those of the district. I was authorised to give those opinions.

37804. Mr. O'Kearney.—You do not think that merely improving the land would render the holdings under 24 valuation economic?—I think if they were worked on the Danish system that probably that might do so.

37805. They would need to have co-operative societies, dairies, and helps of that sort?—Certainly.

37806. Have you any experience of that?—I happen to be the owner of a creamery myself. We started a co-operative creamery, and it got into fearful trouble, and was about to be sold up. I bought it to save it, with the option of the people getting it back in reasonable time, and it has succeeded very well.

37807. Did you start the dairy?—We started a co-operative creamery under the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society. We got into trouble and were threatened with a big law suit by the men who supplied the machinery. I advised them not to pay for the machinery, because it was all wrong.

37808. And in that the machinery that is still running the creamery?—When I got the creamery I overhauled the machinery and fixed it. I invented and introduced a patent of my own which enabled the wrong machinery to do the work of the creamery. It enabled the boiler, which was altogether too small, to do three times its original work.

37809. Have the people made any proposal to share in the ownership?—I have said if they give me the money I paid I am quite willing.

37810. Is the creamery doing well now?—It is, and this year there will be a turnover of roughly £12,000.

37811. What was the amount of the indebtedness of the dairy when you took it over?—When I took it over it was only an auxiliary to another creamery—that is, it merely separated the cream, but did not churn it.

37812. And this auxiliary creamery has now a turnover of £12,000?—It is now converted into a central creamery, and has three auxiliaries of its own. The turnover is £12,000, and its operations cover an area of fifteen miles by five.

37813. Would I be right in including among the causes which have contributed to the decay of the country the large exactions on the industries of the people by the system of landlordism that prevailed?—I honestly do not think you would. You may say I am a prejudiced witness because I am a landlord myself. There were bad landlords—there was a Jude among the Apostles—but, as a rule, I honestly do not think the landlords were bad. But what I would say was another contributory cause is the enormous and most unjust taxation by England.

37814. You heap all the responsibility on England?—Yes, I would.

37815. England has been responsible for all these troubles?—I think England has certainly been responsible for several—*for Free Trade*, for instance.

37816. For landlordism?—Well, I do not admit that.

37817. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Was Ireland in the hands of small holders in the days of the Irish chieftains?—I am not admitting the landlord argument.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Under the Celtic system joint ownership prevailed.

37818. Mr. O'Kearney.—We are agreed that England is responsible for a good deal?—Undoubtedly.

37819. Isn't that a capital argument in favour of our getting rid of England altogether and managing our own business?—It would be as far as it went.

37820. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I was much interested in what you said about temperance. Further improvement in temperance would be a great advantage?—It would be worth all the rest put together.

37821. Unless temperance widely prevails there is no chance of building up?—Well, the chances are greatly reduced.

37822. Is it within your observation that the temperance cause has greatly improved?—I think over the whole country the temperance cause has improved, but at the same time I cannot say a great deal about my own district.

37823. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—In the district under your control they keep up the old practices?—Yes, and if I had control over it there would not be a public-house in it.

37824. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—We are agreed about the great advantage of making temperance progress in Ireland, but is it not a fact that men for men there is less alcohol consumed in Ireland than in the neighbouring countries?—There is less money's worth consumed, but I am not sure about the actual amount of alcohol, but I think there is less in Ireland. I may tell you a surprising thing. I believe that men for men there is more alcohol consumed in Denmark than in the United Kingdom, although Denmark is making such extraordinary progress.

37827. We know that in northern countries a great deal of alcohol is consumed, but you consider there has been a great deal of progress in temperance in Ireland?—Yes, I think there is, all round.

37828. You do not see so many people coming home from market drunk?—I do, a good deal. I would not say that the improvement was very great.

May 25, 1907.
For T. F. L.
Back.

Mr. ALEXANDER DONNELLY examined.

37829. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?—In Omagh.

37830. Do you represent any society or institution here, or do you give evidence on your own behalf?—I am a solicitor, and as such I have been acting for the several districts from Greenacres to Gortin and Donemana.

37831. What do you wish to bring under our notice?—I wish to refer to the proposed railway from Cookstown to Donemana, and I do not intend to go over the same ground and repeat the evidence already given, but I would draw attention to a map. The districts I represent are Kildress, Greenacres, Roselyle, Gortin and Donemana. These form one continuous district running up to the borders of County Derry and down to Mountfield, about six or seven miles from Omagh. It is practically one district of country, and is a very rugged, mountainous, and exposed locality. One of the great wants of this district is that of transit facilities. The Great Northern Railway runs from Derry through Strabane, Omagh, Carrickmore, and Dungannon, skirting the extreme borders of this district. There are no means of rapid communication to and from this district whatever. Farmers going from the central parts of this district to the market towns of Omagh, Strabane, or Cookstown have to travel fully sixteen miles. On account of the very hilly nature of the country it is an extremely difficult thing for farmers to bring their produce such a long way. There is no line in the central parts of the district. It is only at the extremities that line can be obtained, and line is essential for reclamation of the land. Farmers have to go to Cookstown for their lime. There are lime quarries at Plumbridge, but they only benefit a few farmers in the immediate locality.

37832. That all makes up a case in favour of the development of the railway system in this part of the country?—Yes. There are really no means of transit. I heard you ask Father McCann with regard to farms which have been abandoned. I know that in the Gortin district, which is a continuation of the Kildress district, there were several families who found they could not make a living out of the farms. They emigrated to America or elsewhere, and left the farms in the hands of an auctioneer. Of course, such farms

are not very numerous, but the auctioneer puts them for grazing by the year, pays the rent and the rates, and, as a rule, there is never anything left. If there was any margin over it would be sent to the holder ahead.

37833. Sir JOHN COGANE.—The auctioneer auctions the land?—He generally lets it.

37834. On the eleven months' system?—Yes.

37835. Do the people in America show any inclination to part with these holdings, or do they cling to them as their old homes so long as they can get rent and rates paid by grazing?—I think they do not like to part with their places.

37836. If they did part with these holdings would the adjoining tenants be glad to buy them?—I daresay they would if they were able to do so. But I may say that in many cases the old couple are left on the farm, and the money comes from America to pay the rent.

37837. When the people go away they hold on as tenants, but the land is set by auction so as to raise enough to pay the rent?—Exactly.

That thoroughly explains the system.

37838. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Have you any other point to put before us?—Yes; merely with regard to the extremely coarse quality of the land and the difficulty of working it. You referred during the course of the sitting to drainage and it occurred to me that if the tenants on these farms were to employ men and drain the land that the land is of such a quality that it would not support the number necessary to do the work.

37839. Then I am very to hear that the improvement of the land would be so small that it would not repay the outlay?—Of course, if there was some outside assistance it might pay.

37840. But whatever the money comes from, it is either good business to improve the farm because it will pay, or it is not good business because it will not pay. Whoever finds the money will not affect that consideration at all?—If the money were found originally to make the improvements it would be a benefit.

37841. I well understand if there was somebody else to do the work the tenant would profit to a certain extent?—Quite so.

Mr. PATRICK M'ALEEN examined.

37842. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—Yes.

37843. Where do you reside?—At Greenacres.

37844. What is your acreage?—I have almost twenty acres. I bought out under the Land Commission and the present annuity is 22 s. 10d. My valuation is 25 s.

37845. What is the principal matter you wish to bring under the notice of the Commission?—The first point is the unsatisfactory state of the roads, but that probably does not come within your province, but I think assistance might be given in the direction of making accommodation roads into bogs. A very large number of the inhabitants of the district have no suitable roads into the bogs, from which they obtain their supply of turf, and in a wet year it very often happens that a great many of the farmers are unable to get a sufficient quantity of turf and they therefore suffer very materially in the coming winter; they have had fires and serious discomfort all through the winter season. If means could be found to assist the people in making a common road into these bogs, so that in a wet season they would have a better chance of securing a proper supply of turf it would be a great advantage. As regards the county roads, I am sorry to say that though the County Council should see after them they are in a very bad state in our district. Some have gone out of contract for a number of years. The money offered for the repair of the roads was not sufficient to induce a contractor

to take up the work. There has, therefore, been nothing done to the roads. I would advise the Commission, if you are going over these roads to Gortin, to take extra petrol, because they are so hilly it will require a very strong motor to climb them. Another great disadvantage is the exposed condition of the country. There are no hedges or hedges or trees in the country, and of course the crops suffer in consequence. It is situated at an elevation of some 800 feet above the sea level, and is exposed to the storms of winter and spring. The crops cannot be planted in proper time owing to this want of shelter, and are consequently later in ripening. They run a great risk of being either totally lost in a wet season or very imperfectly reaped, not to mention the fact that the yield is considerably under the average.

37846. Sir JOHN COGANE.—Do you and your fellow tenants know that for the last eighty years the law has provided that if you, as a tenant, plant trees and register them with the clerk of the county the trees become the absolute property of the tenants who plant them no matter what happens as regards the ownership of the soil?—No; we are not aware of that.

37847. Shelter is very much required in your district?—Yes; if more shelter were afforded we could more successfully grow our crops. They could be planted earlier; they would ripen earlier; and they would not be so much exposed to the biting frosts of the spring months. The people in our district are poor, struggling farmers, depending on their own

Mr. Patrick
M'Alleen

May 25, 1907.
Mr. Patrick
McAloon.

labour and the assistance given by their families for support. Without that they could not possibly live.
37065 Do you advocate some department planting big tracks for shelter, or merely planting trees and hedges on the different holdings?—If possible, I would suggest shelter belts over a large tract and also hedges.
37066 Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Shelter belts on the distant angles of such farms.—Yes.

37067 Would the occupiers be willing to do their part in procuring such plots from trespass?—I am sure they would.

37068 Sir JOHN COLUEN.—Is it not the general complaint that on obtaining possession of their land by purchase the small holders cut down whatever trees are on it?—As we have not many trees in our part of the country I cannot speak very much from experience on that point. What I wish to say is, that very large tracts of land, I should say considerably over half of the district, is bog and incapable of reclamation and only suitable for the grazing of heaved sheep. If assistance could be obtained in planting portions of these large tracts with suitable trees, they would, as I have said, afford shelter, improve the appearance of the country, and eventually become a source of profit to the owners. Then the climate would be improved, the crops would mature sooner, and there would be a corresponding increase in the prosperity of the inhabitants. Then I would suggest the introduction of suitable industries.

37069 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What industries have you in your mind?—I was thinking of some up-to-date hand looms, which would be most suitable. There is a very large quantity of wool available in the district, close on 20,000 sheep being kept within a radius of six or eight miles, and if assistance could be obtained in introducing up-to-date hand looms, and instructions given in their use and in the proper method of dyeing, homespun could be manufactured, which would secure a ready sale and give work to many who, under existing circumstances, have to leave their homes and seek employment in foreign countries.

37070 Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Are there any of the old looms in the district?—They are practically all done away with.

37071 The people would be willing to take and work the improved looms?—I believe they would. It was a good industry in times gone by, but, of course, not being up-to-date in the making of homespun,

and I suppose not understanding how to secure a market it has gone down. But there is a good supply of wool in the district, and I believe if the people had assistance a good deal could be done again.

37072 You suggest they should get improved looms in much the same way as the fishermen in congested districts got better and bigger boats?—Quite so; that is what I mean.

37073 When the people were working the hand looms was there demand a local one?—In the past it was.

37074 Do you suppose that the people having now got into the habit of wearing shop clothes of a different class would go back to cloth produced by the hand loom?—I am very much inclined to believe they would, and the reason is that a great number of influential people have interested themselves in the sale of such goods.

37075 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is the next point?—Lace-making could also be introduced and afford employment to many of our young girls, who at present have no alternative but to emigrate. For a small amount the services of a properly qualified instructor could be obtained, who would be instrumental in making the people more comfortable, and inducing the youth of the district to remain at home. We have an example of the great benefits conferred by the introduction of lacemaking in Droonore, County Tyrone. If we had proper transit facilities, another industry which would be very useful, would be the post moss litter industry. There is an almost inexhaustible supply of bog, but under present circumstances the establishment of such an industry could scarcely be recommended. We have thousands of acres of bog, in fact it is said, we could scarcely get rid of it, and if there were proper railway facilities the people would be afforded employment, and have some return for their labour. There is a possibility though that in the not far distant future, a railway may be made through the district, which would not only encourage the establishment of industries, but would be of upmost benefit to the inhabitants, in getting lime and other necessary commodities into the district, which are so difficult to obtain under present conditions. The people are anxious to better their conditions, and I believe if they had a little assistance their condition would be greatly advanced.
Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I am glad you made the point about improved hand looms.

Mr. Patrick
Conway.

Mr. PATRICK CONWAY examined.

37076 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—Yes; residing at Carrigrohane.

37077 What is your acreage, rent and valuation?—I hold forty acres, my rent is £3 1s. 6d., and my valuation £4 15s.

37078 What evidence would you like to give?—I wish to speak about the randale system which applies principally on the McMahon estate, and is a most pernicious one. In many instances the arable portions are so interwoven that it is almost impossible to distinguish one portion from another. Randales is a fruitful source of litigation. It applies to five or six townlands in Greencastle parish, and it is a very awkward thing.

37079 How do you think the difficulty can be met. Do you consider that the several holders on an estate would agree to leave the matter to arbitration, and have the land re-striped and allotted?—I think they have got to find of the system they would nearly do anything to get rid of it. It is a great source of bother.

37080 There is a very great difficulty when you come to re-arrange and divide the lands. Do you know of any estate held in randale and successfully re-striped in this district?—About seventy years ago the whole parish was in much the same way. The greater portion of it was striped out in '36 or '37.

37081 Sir JOHN COLUEN.—How did it get back to

randale?—This portion now in randale never was striped.

37082 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is the size of the estate you are speaking of now in randale, and how many tenants are there?—It would apply to five townlands, with probably about a hundred of tenants, or less.

37083 Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The striping could not be done voluntarily; there should be some way of bringing compulsion to bear on the occupiers to compel them to accept the arrangement?—Undoubtedly that would require to be done.

37084 It could not be expected of human beings that they would all agree?—I am sure they would not all agree.

37085 Sir JOHN COLUEN.—Is it generally felt by all the tenants that the randale is a bad system?—It is.

37086 Have they ever done anything to get rid of a system they recognise to be so bad, such as asking the landlord or his agent to re-arrange the holdings?—Some of them did, but they never carried out the arrangement the landlords made, because some of them objected.

37087 In order to carry out any re-arrangement there would need to be compulsory powers of some sort to compel those who might not agree to do so for the benefit of themselves and others?—Yes.

Mr. James
MacFarlane.

Mr. JAMES MACFARLANE examined.

37088 Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are a farmer?—Yes.

37089 Where is your holding?—At Dook, Cookstown.

37090 What is your acreage, rent, and valuation?

—I hold 100 acres; my rent is £40; and my valuation £36.

37091 Sir JOHN COLUEN.—Is that a second term rent?—It is.

37875. **Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.**—What is the principal point you wish to bring before the Commission?—I wish to state that in my neighbourhood there was an industry about thirty years ago of hand looms. There were nineteen looms on the property, and ten years ago the last of them died out. Since that we have started a creamery, but the great disadvantage we labour under in connection with that work is the want of good transit facilities for the creamery produce. There is a good deal of water power in the district. There are about five wheels, and they are all idle because there is no way of getting the stuff away. Three years ago I started a mill to grind Indian corn. It was worked by water power, but I found it did not pay because of the cost of carriage. Cuckstown is only five miles away, and it cost as much to cart stuff that short distance as to send it from Cuckstown to Belfast by rail.

37876. Is that because the road is not good?—The road is good enough, but carting with horses costs for a ton.

37877. You think a railway would help you?—Yes. We want a light railway or something like that. I think the best thing that could be done for the whole district would be a light railway, which would open it up. That is what the district wants more than anything else. The people have no way of getting lime for the land except it could be carried by rail.

37878. Have you any particular route in view?—The line from Cuckstown through Greenacres and Gortin to Donemana is the scheme suggested for the whole district.

37879. That is a considerable distance?—Yes, about thirty miles.

37880. What is your next point?—The fax industry has greatly ceased in the district. It used to be a great place for growing fax.

37881. Is that because of the want of transit facilities, or because the fax takes too much out of the land?—There are several reasons, but I think Free Trade has a great deal to do with it. Russian fax is brought in free, and although it is getting cheaper year is going up in price. I think there should be a duty on foreign fax coming in. That would encourage the fax-growing industry in Ireland. Turn is twice as dear now as last year, yet fax has gone up very little in price. I have a scotch mill, and I understand a good deal about the matter. It is Russian fax coming in here free that is killing us. There is not more than 3s. a stone as an average paid for fax, and the spinners could give double that if they wish.

37882. **Mr. O'KELLY.**—You state that the Russians are able to beat fax here, and after paying freight all the way, beat the Irish farmer in his own market?—Yes, because in Russia they get labour for little or nothing.

37883. What do they pay labourers in Russia?—I could not tell.

37884. Then why do you say the Russian farmer gets his labour for little or nothing?—If we are to believe the newspapers they are little better than slaves in Russia.

37885. **Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.**—Do you recommend the introduction of that system into this country?—No. I think a simpler plan would be to put a tax on foreign fax.

37886. **Mr. O'KELLY.**—You say that the spinners could pay a better price?—Yes.

37887. Then there must be something else wrong independent of the introduction of Russian fax?—Certainly, when the spinners can get Russian fax at a cheap rate they won't pay Irish farmers a big price.

37888. **Mr. BURKE.**—Wasn't the fax growers in Russia begin to ask better prices when they find that the price of yarn is going up?—Well, the price of yarn went up last week, and the price of Russian fax came down.

37889. Wasn't the price depend on the supply?—Yes.

37890. You are aware that you are going beyond even Mr. Chamberlain's proposals?—I am not particular. I am saying what I believe to be true.

37891. **Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.**—It is rather a large question, but we will take it that you think it would be an advantage to Irish fax-growers to have a tax on imported foreign fax?—Yes. I wish to add regarding this district that it is very poor, and I believe a light railway would be the best thing for the district, as it would open it up. Doone creamery is turning over in money value about £5,000 a year, and this railway would accommodate at least three creameries, Doone, Greenacres, and Gortin. I think the creameries have done a good deal for the country, and Father McGown did good work in starting and carrying on the Greenacres creamery.

37892. **Sir JOHN CONNOR.**—As regards fax, are you aware that owing to the application of science the Belgians are producing a finer and better class of fax than the people of any other country in the world?—I have been in Belgium on a deputation.

37893. Then you are perfectly aware of that fact?—I am perfectly aware of it.

37894. Then over and above a tax on foreign fax, which is a matter beyond us, do you think an important matter for the Irish fax-grower would be scientific knowledge of the cultivation of fax, and especially with regard to the purity and the fineness of the seed?—For these last two years we are getting good seed, but we were not getting it before that.

37895. Do you find that a benefit?—Certainly. I may say a good deal depends on the water in Belgium. There they have a river thirty miles long. At both ends it is not as good as at the centre.

37896. **Mr. KAVANAGH.**—Irish fax is much better than Russian?—Yes.

37897. Russian fax is coarse?—Yes, very coarse indeed.

37898. Don't you think Irish fax could be improved up to the standard of Belgium?—There is some Irish fax as good as Belgium.

37899. Does it get as good a price?—No, it does not.

37900. How is that?—We cannot get such a large quantity together. Of Belgium you can get lots all of the one quality.

37901. The seed is brought into Belfast and sold to you here?—Yes.

37902. **Mr. O'KELLY.**—Are you a member of the County Agricultural Committee?—I am.

37903. What proportion of the expenditure of the committee reaches farmers under £10 in valuation?—I could not tell, but Mr. Dalling, our secretary, is here and can tell you that.

Mr. JOHN DEER examined.

37904. **Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.**—You are a farmer?—Yes.

37905. In what district?—Rock, Dungannon.

37906. What is your acreage, rent, and valuation?—My acreage is 55½ acres, rent £45, and valuation £41 12s.

37907. What evidence do you wish to give?—I wish to speak of another district outside those in regard to which evidence has been already given. I appear for portions of Cuckstown Union, the townlands of Linskill and Monare. These are in the electoral units of Rock and Pottery. I may say that the farmers here are situated in much the same circumstances as those in the parish of Kildare, as described

by former witnesses, only the land is not so rocky nor so high. There is there a wick woodland. But it is of high elevation, being 700 or 800 feet above the level of the sea. It is exposed, and has been reclaimed. The people are all very poor, and have a great struggle to get out an existence. The particulars are:—Linskill, acreage, 1,436a. 2r. 8p.; total valuation of agricultural holdings, £409 1s.; number of holdings, 97. Monare, acreage, 592a. 2r. 3p.; valuation, £207 15s.; number of holdings, 40. Pottery, acreage, 635a. 3r. 8p.; valuation, £189 7s.; number of holdings, 48. Edmond, acreage, 345a. 3r. 13p.; valuation, £137 10s.; number of holdings, 34. Turin, acreage, 154a. 3r. 4p.; valuation, £85 12s.; number of holdings, 15. Curran, acreage, 306a. 0r. 3p.; valuation, £170;

May 28, 1907.

Mr. John
Dunne.

number of holdings, 35. Gortendarragh, acreage, 223a. 3r. 12p.; valuation, £316 8s.; number of holdings, 20. The average valuation per holding is:—Edmondshill, under 24; Bonaheissie, under 24 10s.; Linschill a little over 24; Monmore, under 28 10s.; Corranney, under 28; Turmeske, under 26 6s. 8d.; and Gortendarragh, under 25 10s. The valuation per head is:—Edmondshill, about 4 10s.; Bonaheissie, about 4 2s.; Linschill, about 4 17s.; Monmore, about 4 6s.; Turmeske, about 4 3s.; Gortendarragh, about 4 10s.; and Corranney, about 4 13s. The valuation per acre is:—Linschill, 8s. 3d.; Bonaheissie, 6s. 3d.; Monmore, 7s. 8d.; Edmondshill, 8s.; Turmeske, 11s. 7d.; Corranney, 11s. 1d.; and Gortendarragh, 9s. 7d.

37908. Do you wish to raise some points on these figures?—The condition of the people is the same as described by previous witnesses, and I need not occupy time over that.

37909. What are the principal points you wish to bring before us?—I would like to suggest that some industries should be started in the country to keep the people at home. I think the districts I have mentioned, with Kildare, and all round to the Derry mountains, should all be scheduled as a congested area, as it is all very much the same as the congested areas in County Donegal.

37910. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—There seem to be a great many congested regions in that district?—They are nearly all congested.

37911. I notice that 75 per cent. of the holdings in Farnore are under £10 valuation?—I believe they are.

37912. What industries would you suggest?—I would suggest industries something like those in Donegal. There are a number of industries which have made a great improvement in the conditions of the people of Donegal and helped them to become prosperous, such as needlework and the woollen industry.

37913. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I would like to point out that although both these industries afford occupation for women they do not give much occupation for men. Your object is to provide some employment to keep the men from emigrating, and these industries do not seem to be very promising?—In answer to that I would say if this proposed new railway from Cookstown to Strabane were made it would open up other industries. There is splendid water power in the district. There is the Broughshill river and another running in the direction of Cookstown, and we hope, if this railway were made, that industries such as there are at Sion Mills, Beesbrook, and Greenvale, Cookstown, would be established. Towards Broughshill there is a large amount of peat, and with a railway running through the district very probably a peat industry would spring up. The people would be able to cut and dry their turf, and send it by rail to Cookstown or elsewhere and get time in return to improve their land. I think if the country were opened up by this railway there would be more opportunities to find labour both for men and women. One witness spoke about large plantations, and I thoroughly agree with him. Reafforestation would improve the country and soften the climate. Then, as regards the potato crop, I would like to say that the people have done all they could in the way of spraying. They are very quick to take up any new method likely to be beneficial to themselves and the district. They took to spraying, but, notwithstanding that, the potato crop has been a failure. No matter what is done the potatoes are stumpy and hardly fit for use.

37914. Mr. BAKER.—Can you tell me whether the spraying was done in wet or dry weather?—They endeavoured to do it in dry weather, but in some of the seasons lately it was nearly impossible to spray in dry weather. Another thing against the benefit of spraying, is that frost or mist, or fog gathers on the mountains. Spraying in the lowlands without that drawback has more effect, than in the mountains; besides in the lowlands the soil is deeper and better, and produces a better crop. I have friends in the highlands who did their best to spray their potatoes, but the crop was killed by frost or fog. Another witness spoke of the great number of mountain sheep there, and the large quantity of wool which would be available for a woollen industry. I think instead of exporting that wool to England or Scotland, or selling it to some of the local firms, if there was a woollen industry in the district, they could keep it at home and get a better price for it. This new railway would

bring my district more in touch with County Donegal. This railway would bring the sheep along in the direction of Belfast. A friend of mine Mr. Quinn, was the pioneer in opening up the sheep markets of Donegal; in fact he made markets for them. He went to Donegal, and bought the sheep in hundreds, and with all the disadvantages of having no railway, he brought them to Newry, Lough, and Meath.

37915. But the Donegal people have railways running through the county, and connecting at Strabane with the Great Northern Railway, and are thus able to reach Newry, Lough and Meath?—Yes, but if this new railway were made they would be brought into better touch with Belfast. Another thing I wish to say is that these poor people have not got the benefit of land purchase. Unfortunately, while the landlords of good land are selling, the landlords of these congested districts refuse to sell, except at an exorbitant price.

37916. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are there many instances in that part of the country where negotiations between the landlords and the tenants for the sale of the land have broken down?—In the district I am speaking of Colonel Hutcheson-Pol offered to sell at 24½ years' purchase, and would take no less. The tenants, through Canon Quinn, offered 22½ years' purchase on second term rents, but he would not take it. In my humble opinion 17½ years' purchase was quite sufficient. Colonel Lowry asked 25 years' purchase, and the tenants offered 22½ years' purchase. I do not know whether Colonel Irvine offered to sell or not, nor am I sure about the representatives of Captain Henry or James Corbett. On the other hand, it is said that the Hope's estate, which borders Colonel Pol's, was sold before the Land Act of 1903 at 17 years' purchase on second term rents. On this estate the land is mountainous and congested, and is of much the same quality as that on Colonel Pol's estate, which it borders. There are nearly two thousand tenants on the Hope estate, and they are all fairly prosperous now.

37917. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—And notwithstanding that the annuity they have to pay is 4 per cent. as against 3½ now?—Yes. I may also say that the Balfour estate, which is of medium land, was sold at 19 years' purchase on first term rents, and there was no game reservation. The tenants now protest and care for the game, and they derive a good income from letting the shooting to sportsmen.

37918. How is that done?—Everyone is interested in watching the game.

37919. Do they combine together and appoint a committee to deal with the game interests, or does each tenant look after the game on his own land?—Each tenant looks after the game on his own land, because he knows he will derive a certain income in the year by so doing.

37920. Are you personally acquainted with this property?—Not personally.

37921. All the evidence you can give is merely what you have been told?—Yes.

37922. What we would like to know is how game can be preserved or a profit made when it is all split up among small holders. You cannot from your own knowledge give the Commission any information on that?—No. I have only heard that the farmers look after the game because by doing so they will derive certain remuneration in the same way as they would out of a crop.

37923. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—If a man has only fifteen acres of land it would be difficult for him to let the shooting on it. I fancy the only way in which the shooting could be let would be for the tenants to club together and let three or four hundred acres of shooting, and then divide the proceeds?—Yes, they must club together. I take it that is their only way of managing the shooting.

37924. Sir JOHN COSGROVE.—I understood you to say that what is happening in your district is that landlords are selling the good land and not selling the bad?—That is my experience.

37925. Do you mean that a landlord who has part of his estate good land and part bad is selling the good land and holding on to the bad land with the small tenants on it?—No, I do not mean that.

37926. Then what you mean is that the landlords who have good land are selling it, but the landlords whose land is bad are not selling it?—That is so, and in these congested districts the people should get the benefit of purchase as soon as possible.

Mr. FRANCIS QUINN examined.

May 26, 1897.

Mr. Francis
Quinn.

37927. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—Yes; my holding is at Ardree. I have about sixty acres of land. My valuation is £78 10s.; rent almost £60, and £2 of tithe rent.

37928. What are the principal points you wish to bring under the notice of the Commission?—The principal point I wish to bring before the Commission has reference to the piece of railway either from this town or Newtown through my district. We suffer from want of railway facilities, and I was a member of a deputation that appeared before the directors of the old Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company, and also before their successors the Midland Railway Company. They admitted this grievance, and I think it would be well if our district were listed under the Congested Districts Board, so that some assistance towards the scheme could come from them. The necessity for this line was admitted over twenty years ago, when the route was mapped out by the late Sir Charles Lanyon, and the money for the work was almost voted, but there was some hitch. It was thought there might be water communication to Cookstown. At any rate the grievance is still unredressed, and it has been admitted in Belfast, to which city we go chiefly for our supplies.

37929. Mr. BRYCE.—Where do you suggest the line should run to?—From Cookstown to Ardree.

37930. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—How many miles would that be?—From Cookstown to the centre of Ardree would be eight miles, but if it was run on to the old Cross of Ardree it would be ten miles.

37931. Sir JAMES CULLEN.—You said Sir Charles

Lanyon mapped out the route over twenty years ago. I thought he was thirty years dead?—He is twenty-two years dead.

37932. Nothing has been done since then?—The route was mapped out twenty-three years ago, but nothing has been done. The railway company seems unwilling to put down the money and make this piece of railway of which we stand in such great need.

37933. Who are unwilling to put down the money?—The old Northern Counties Railway has been sold to the Midland of England, and that is a change of masters. The company consider the line necessary, but they have not made it.

37934. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When you say the grievance is admitted, you mean it is admitted you are suffering from want of this railway?—Yes.

37935. The directors of the railway company met the deputation and admitted the grievance up to the point at which they were asked to do something?—They admitted the grievance, and I think they would be willing to do something, but I believe it would take £50,000 to make this piece of railway, and they are unwilling to spend the money. There is a gentleman present who was then a director of the railway company.

37936. Perhaps he would rather not express any opinion?—I do not know but that he would.

37937. The object of your evidence is to the effect that you think a part of your district justifies it being scheduled and placed under the Congested Districts Board in order that the Board might assist towards the promotion of this railway?—That is so.

Mr. W. J. HARRISON examined.

37938. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You belong to Cookstown?—Yes, I am a merchant and seedsmen in Cookstown dealing with the farmers.

37939. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You do not represent any public body?—No. I am not allowed to enter any public body here because I belong to a religion that the rigidly exclusive party in Cookstown will not allow to be represented on the Urban Council of Cookstown, although we pay two-fifths of the rates.

37940. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Who excludes you?—The doctors of Cookstown are so exclusive that they would not allow me to become a member of the Urban Council—but you will find the same all over Ulster—although my father was one of the twelve men who had the town incorporated in the last century under the Towns' Improvement Act, and established the gasworks and all the rest of it. I dare not ask to represent the Presbyterians of Cookstown.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—I hope you are under a misapprehension.

37941. Mr. O'KELLY.—You represent those who pay two-fifths of the rates?—I do; I belong to the denomination that pays two-fifths of the rates. When at school I was the only Catholic boy taught by a Protestant minister.

37942. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What is the nature of the evidence you wish to give?—I wish to say with regard to congestion in this district that a great drawback is that the people have no meadowing, and in seasons of drought they are perished trying to keep their cattle, because they have not fodder for winter feeding. They also suffer from a great want of knowledge in the use of artificial manures and fertilisers, and other things. I complain that the Agricultural Board has not been giving attention to these particular places and instructing the people in the use of artificial manures and fertilisers, and natural grasses. It is painful to myself as a seedsmen to observe this want of knowledge. The people are also behind in knowledge as to the breeding and mating of cattle. The Agricultural Board, in my opinion, has given far more attention to the breeding of high-class pedigree cattle in the Tullybeg and Shawanstown districts, because the results create more applause, and have more money to show than in the case of the people in the mountain districts. I complain that the Agricultural Board is not paying attention to the people of the poorer districts who

require instruction and help in many ways. Deslinage is most defective. In the Killymore district there are boulders and large stones, and I suggest that the County Council should have an apparatus which under the County Surveyor could be sent out to farmers at the best cost of the expense so as to have these boulders and stones blown up.

37943. When you complain of the Agricultural Board you are aware that their schemes are worked by the County Committee, who are really the executive?—There is no possibility of my representing Cookstown on that County Committee. I may say I heard Father McConn say in reply to Sir Francis Mowatt that there were no lands available for the purpose of migration.

37944. I think he was speaking of a limited area?—Well, I can say as regards our district there is plenty of land. The Agricultural Board bought Leaghney Manor and Glabe when they were on the market recently. These were 148 acres, and the Agricultural Board bought the place at the rate of £13 14s. 6d. an acre. The Board purchased that freehold for the purpose of establishing a dairy farm, but I think as they could get any amount of land elsewhere suitable for dairy farms the Agricultural Board should transfer that holding to the Congested Districts Board, who could split it up into farms of twenty acres and relieve congestion in the Killymore district by migrating tenants from there to these new farms.

37945. Is the holding being used as a dairy farm?—No. I do not know that everything is yet completed. There is also in the neighbourhood of Cookstown the Killymore demesne, consisting of 500 acres. It was offered for sale a few years ago, and it would be a good place to use for the purposes of migration.

37946. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you know if the proprietors would still be willing to offer it for sale?—I cannot say. I am only speaking from the information I received from one of the leading firms of auctioneers in this town.

37947. You heard it was offered for sale?—Yes, a few years ago.

37948. Mr. O'KELLY.—How is it held?—The Mountaineers hold it in fee.

37949. Do the Agricultural Board intend to have an agricultural college in the place they have bought?—They want it for a dairy school, but in my opinion it would be very easy for the Agricultural

Mr. W. J.
Harrison.

May 2, 1897.

Mr W. J.
Hartman

Board to hand it over to the Congested Districts Board.

37950. You think it could be turned to better purpose than a dairy farm?—Yes, to relieve the congestion at Kildress.

37951. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Your evidence is that there is land in County Tyrone available for migration purposes, and the enlargement of holdings?—Certainly.

37952. Can you give us an approximate idea of the extent of such land?—I have referred to the Longgray Manor of 148 acres. Then there is Belmont, at Stewartstown, of 130 acres, and Killymoon Park of 600 acres.

37953. Are there any others you can bring to your mind?—Not at the moment.

37954. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Do you subscribe to the local shows?—I do, certainly.

37955. What is your experience of these shows—do they help the large farmer who might be trusted to get on very well without their assistance, or do they help the small farmer who stands so much in need of assistance?—My experience is that in this district the small farmers derive no benefit, but whether the show committees are to blame or not I cannot say, but I know that in other districts the Agricultural Board is catering for the farmers who have the finer class of cattle. In my opinion the Board should also help the small farmers in the poorer districts and give as much attention to the class of cattle that will suit their land as they do to the cattle of the rich farmers.

37956. I notice that a sum of £160 has been spent in substantial grants at these shows. A sum of £70 was given for horse-breeding. What chance has the small farmer under £15 valuation at these shows against the large farmer who is over £50 in valuation?—None whatever.

37957. What proportion of the money expended in prizes in County Tyrone reaches the small farmer, the men under £30 valuation?—Well, Cookstown district runs north and south. The poor districts lie to the west, and I do not believe such districts as Kildress, where so much congestion exists, get 6d. in the £. I appeal to you to consider the condition of these people. The great drawback is that they have no meadow, and if a year of drought comes along these people, on account of their cattle, are impoverished for two or three years.

37958. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Some of the witnesses told us that scarcely any improvement in the conditions of the agricultural holdings of Kildress parish would enable the farmers to live by their holdings?—I would disagree with that.

37959. The contention was that without enlargement the holdings could not be made to support the family?—That is so.

37960. You told us of grass lands being available, and it is therefore possible to contemplate some relief of the congestion by the enlargement of the holdings?—That is so.

37961. Are these grass lands near the small occupiers?—They are all in this union. There are some within ten minutes' walk of Cookstown, others are only two or three miles from the town. Besides these grass lands like Longgray Manor and Killymoon Park if partitioned out among the farmers would not only benefit a district by relieving congestion in it, but would bring a farming population beside the town. We have two or three big manufacturers of hose fabrics here, and the children of these farmers would be able to find employment in these mills.

37962. There are good linen mills in Cookstown?—Yes, splendid. We have the Messrs. Adams, who are the finest manufacturers of linen, and stand highest in the trade in Ulster.

37963. Assume that these grass lands were acquired at a reasonable price and divided into moderately sized holdings, the occupants would be able to live by the land and also find employment for their families in Cookstown?—Quite so.

37964. Do you think that the land abandoned in Kildress would be of much service for the purpose of enlarging neighboring holdings there?—I believe that would be a safe policy to carry out. These holdings at Kildress are not capable of supporting

the young people who are obliged to emigrate, and if two or three of these farms were turned into one matters would be greatly improved.

37965. Sometimes it is said that the condition of a man is not improved by the enlargement of the quantity of land in his hands, but I suppose the people in Kildress have not enough of the class of land they possess?—No, they have not. Take an ordinary farm of fifteen or twenty acres, that man could have three dairy cows, but he wants fudge for the winter and he has to come to the market and buy it at an outside price. I have known men here when the country was absolutely bankrupt by the farmers having to buy fodder in the early spring.

37966. Is it your contention that the enlargement of holdings in Kildress would enable those holders to have more hay, fodder, and more rough grazing?—Quite so, and with the development of the creameries the farmers require to have sufficient forage for the winter. The trouble is that they cannot get a supply of these small farms.

37967. What number of acres do you consider would give these people a good economic holding?—I would put it down at twenty-four acres statute. Of course a man could keep three cows and a horse on a twenty-acre farm with tillage. I am putting it at the maximum.

37968. How many acres on an average have these men got?—In many cases they work ten and twelve and fourteen acres, but that is not sufficient for a dairy farm, which is the proper sort of farm for them to have. This district is especially well suited for dairy farming, in fact it is one of the best in Ulster.

37969. If one of these men had two more farms added so as to make up a holding of a little over thirty acres, do you think a man could work that?—Of course he could, he could work it well.

37970. Because it is mostly tillage land?—We are all tillage here.

37971. Do you think a man with his own family could work over thirty acres without requiring any outside assistance?—Certainly.

37972. To advantage?—Yes, to advantage.

37973. Mr. KAVANAGH.—In the agricultural shows are there not classes for different valuations so that the small men have sections all to themselves?—No, and that is one of the pitfalls of the situation. Rev. Dr. Carter, the rector, established these shows and I did my best to encourage the shows and get the people in the poor districts to come in and take advantage of them.

37974. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Don't you think there should be classes at the shows for farmers under £10 valuation, and for farmers under £4 valuation as there are at shows in every other part of the country?—Quite right.

37975. The local committee gives contributions to the shows, and should they not see that such classes are provided?—Yes, I agree with that. This district has been the pioneer of the shortened breed of cattle. Files of money have been made since the Agricultural Committee introduced these shows, because cattle sold for £200 and £400 have been sent out to South America. All the attention was paid to that class of cattle, and the poor unfortunate people in the mountain districts were left without any assistance. Then again I consider that the Agricultural Board have not given sufficient information to the people with regard to the use of the natural grasses. I am speaking now *pro bona publia*, and I say these people have no knowledge of the difference between perennial and Italian grasses or any other variety. Scarcely one of them knows the right grasses to put down, and I think the Agricultural Board should pay more attention to that.

37976. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Does the Department send down an inspector to these agricultural shows?—Yes, but I think the people of the district have got very little information from that Board.

37977. Does the Department send an inspector to Cookstown shows?—They do, but I do not know if the people get any advantage from that. It would take an instructor every day in the week because of the want of knowledge of these people with regard to the use of grasses, and especially clover.

Mr. WILLIAM LEPPER continued.

May 25, 1897.

Mr. William
Lepper

37978. Mr. KAVANAGH—You reside in Colontown?
—Yes, I am a linen manufacturer in Colontown.
37979. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell—You are concerned in one of the large mills here?—Yes; and I reside on the edge of the district that applies to be scheduled as congested.

37980. It is a poor district?—Yes. It consists of twenty-one townlands and has an area of about 22,000 acres, and a valuation of £4,500. That is the portion which was applied to be scheduled within the Colontown Union. I also am pretty well acquainted with the people in the district and their method of living, and I believe that it ought to be scheduled and treated apart from the rest of the county in any scheme. I believe it does not benefit sufficiently from the present county scheme.

37981. And it would require more aid than the other district?—I believe so, if you wish to keep the people in it.

37982. Mr. O'KERRY—Who is your representative on the county committee in this district?—I think Mr. McFarlane is. He has given evidence.

37983. You ought to bring that before him and let him bring this district to the county committee's notice?—That has been done already.

37984. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell—Probably you contend that after the county committee has done its best there should be some supplemental aid, independent of the general funds, to help a poor district?—I think so. I understand—I am not familiar with its workings—I believe they formulated a scheme by which the residents of this area competed among themselves for certain prizes, including the better portion of the county, but they found that there was no competition among them and they abandoned the scheme.

37985. Mr. KAVANAGH—That was at the agricultural shows?—At the agricultural shows.

37986. And there were no entries?—There was no competition. There may have been some entries. They found it was not a success and abandoned it.

37987. It would really be more in the nature of a parish committee work that you would suggest, that would give prizes?—I fancy so. This district should be treated separately from the rest of the county, not all events. They cannot benefit from the present scheme. They should be treated in a paternal way, I am afraid. Then with regard to industries and the establishment of industries, I cannot altogether agree with the evidence that has been given here to-day. We cannot find sufficient employees for our works here.

37988. Without starting new ones?—Without starting new ones. We cannot induce those people, who are living in this congested area, to come in to work here. They prefer to go to America, or to England or Scotland. We cannot induce their families to come in.

37989. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell—Probably your work is chiefly for women?—It is chiefly for women.

37990. Men would not have the same inducement to come in?—They would not, but I think there would be ample work for the men too.

37991. If a migration scheme were carried out, bringing some of these people down to the grass lands

that are near here, that improvement might be carried out without in any way interfering with your fine industry, but with some help to it?—I do not think so; with twenty acres of land no one would send anyone in to work.

37992. If they had so much land they would need all the help?—Yes, and they would be too poor.

37993. Mr. KAVANAGH—It would keep the young men on the farm and you would get the benefit of the women?—They would not come to us.

37994. Not the young women?—No; not from a farm of that size.

37995. Mr. O'KERRY—What is your factory?—John Surney & Sons.

37996. What is the industry?—Weaving linen.

37997. Are the majority of your working people women or men?—Women, the great majority.

37998. And they are recruited from the towns of Colontown?—They are recruited from the towns of Colontown and from the county district, from small farmers going to the mill, so it seems, and now the county districts have become greatly depleted in population and the people are going away straight to America or Canada, and it is very difficult to get workers. We have a great deal of machinery idle for want of workers.

37999. Mr. KAVANAGH—You find you cannot get labour enough?—No.

38000. That is not an encouragement to start new industries?—Not of that nature, at any rate cottage industries would be more suitable to the district.

38001. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell—It would be a great matter if any such mill as yours could be planted down in the centre of a district like Kildress, where the farms are insufficient. Is there any probability of such a thing as that?—None whatever. If we had our machinery in Belfast we would never have it here. We get the two-thirds of our production in Belfast and only one-third here. The rates from Belfast upwards and backwards handicap us so much that we can produce a piece of cloth cheaper there than here.

38002. Mr. KAVANAGH—Although the labour is cheaper here?—Although the labour is cheaper, but we have to bring the coal and chemicals, and we have to bring up the machinery and mill furnishings and pay the railway rates for the yarn and the linen going back, and, of course, if you put it out in Kildress you would have, in addition, the cartage.

38003. Over what area does your labour extend? How far do your people come from?—Half a mile round.

38004. Not more than that?—No.

38005. Mr. O'KERRY—Is scarcity of labour the one great drawback to the extension?—Scarcity of labour and the railway rates.

38006. Where is your market?—England?—All over the world. England and America are the two principal markets, but we have to buy in Belfast markets, and, of course, all the goods pass through the Port of Belfast going away. I do not know that there is anything further.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell—That is very interesting.

Mr. WALTER R. CRAWFORD examined.

38007. Mr. KAVANAGH—What is your address?—The Priory, Tullybeg. I would like to correct a few statements that Mr. HARBINSON made. I happen to be on the agricultural committee for this county.

38008. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell—And you know a good deal about stock?—As much as most people.

38009. Mr. KAVANAGH—What would you like to contradict?—He made a statement about the money going from the agricultural committee to the larger farmers at the shows. Such is not the fact. Chances are provided at all the shows in the county for small farmers under a certain valuation, and this money is altogether given in prizes to the smaller farmers, and the show committees bear all the expenses of administering the funds.

38010. The Board insist on that?—Certainly, and for this special district of Kildress, and what are called the poorer districts of the county the committee

gave a special grant, which was offered to farmers of a certain valuation.

38011. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell—What was the valuation?—I cannot speak concretely at the moment. There was no competition at any of the shows and the chances had to be abandoned.

38012. Mr. O'KERRY—Can you tell us what the valuation was.

Mr. KAVANAGH—Was it £15?

38013. Mr. O'KERRY—Am I right in saying it is open to valuations under £20?—There is one class provided under £20, I know, every year.

38014. Is it in that report?—I do not know.

38015. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell—For the district you would require to come under £10?—I think it was under £15.

38016. Mr. KAVANAGH—It did not £10? There was

Mr. Walter R.
Crawford.

May 25, 1907.

Mr. Walter H.
Crawford

no competition?—No competition. It was tried at Omagh, Cookstown, and Strabane.

38014. Mr. O'KELLY.—Had you any classes, Mr. Crawford, for holdings under £10?—Not so low as that.

38019. Whilst it is a fact that 83 per cent. of all the holdings in County Tyrone are under £10?—Not in this district, I think.

38020. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The small holder pays his penny in the pound towards the grant as well as the larger man?—Yes; but if you take one district, all that they contribute to the rate on nearly 1,000 acres is only 1s. 11d. The valuation of the district is £4,000 and we get 4,000 pence.

38021. Mr. O'KELLY.—I am not talking about the congested area. I am merely suggesting to you, Mr. Crawford, that in a county where 84 per cent. of all the holdings are under £10 valuation it would not be unreasonable that there should be classes for the majority of the people, and you have not got such competition?—Not at present under £10 valuation, but at most of the shows all the money given by county committees is confined to farmers of a low valuation. The open classes are provided by local subscriptions.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—They had them and they did not enter.

38022. Mr. O'KELLY.—Under £15 valuation they did not, but I am pointing out that 84 per cent. of all the holdings in County Tyrone are under £10, and I am pointing out that there are no special classes for farmers of that valuation. And then, taking the whole county, the grievance appears to be greater. If I take the Rural District of Omagh, it is, if I may say so, more glaring. Take Athmore, 72 per cent.; Beragh, 45 per cent.; Carrickmore, 50 per cent.; Carriglass, 68 per cent.; Clannabrog, 54 per cent.; Cragga, 45 per cent.; Crocaghobry, 68 per cent.; Derrybaird, 46 per cent.; Derraghree, 45 per cent.; Droughish, 55 per cent.; and so on!—All the money of the agricultural committee is apportioned according to the valuation and each district as far as possible. The county committee spend the money as that basis in each district. For instance, Cookstown Union, in the matter of nominations of male and premiums of bulls, got so many according to the valuation.

38023. And the higher the valuation the larger the grant?—Certainly.

38024. Therefore the richer the Union the larger the benefits?—Certainly.

38025. And it benefits according to the proportion of grant from the district?—I hold that for the poorer districts it is not the duty of the richer farmers to be taxed to help the people in the congested districts. That is a matter altogether for the Government. Any aid they get should come from the Government direct.

38026. I quite agree, but let me suggest this. Do not you think it would be more equitable if the poorer districts got a larger grant from the Department of Agriculture, and the richer districts got a smaller grant?—But as it stands now, if the system is as you describe it, the richer the district the larger the grant, and the poorer the district the smaller the contribution of the Department. Do not you think that if the grant was given in inverse ratio it would be more equitable?—That is a matter for the Department, and I think their principle is that they do aid in that way in what are known as the congested counties. They do get a larger amount than the richer counties in proportion to the valuation, because if we contribute £1 of rates we get 25s. of grant, and there are other counties get 30s.

38027. Yes, and let me suggest to you that I think in Mayo or Roscommon you won't find, or in Sligo, you won't find a union that will produce such figures

as Omagh produces?—I have not looked into the figures.

38028. Have you looked into the figures for Cookstown?—Not in detail.

38029. Ballynaselloe 61 per cent. under £10; Beaghmore, 57 per cent.; Killoonan, 95 per cent.; Muckerrin, 74 per cent.; Oaklands, 70 per cent.; Pottery, 74 per cent.?—But even the valuations are lower you will find the people are better off than parts of Sligo with a higher valuation.

38030. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—About this matter of subsidy from the Department, as I understand it, the subsidy depends on the county contribution?—Yes.

38031. It is your own county committee that makes an arrangement to allocate the subsidy in proportion to the amount of the rate from the different districts?—Certainly.

38032. You would agree that the result is that while the rich districts are higher rated they get a larger subsidy?—No. The principle that we have followed in the county committee in allocating the various schemes is that the poorer districts have special attention paid to them, and bulls have been placed, and boars in the districts as far as possible, where we can get them taken up.

38033. You would expect that within each rural district the poorer districts would receive better treatment than the richer districts of that rural district?—Certainly, and they do, as far as County Tyrone County Committee is concerned.

38034. More than that, Mr. Crawford. Would not you think it right that as there are supplemental schemes in the various districts in the West of Ireland there should be also supplemental schemes here?—I quite agree, but I hold that it is the Department or the Government should do it, not the other ratepayers in the same county.

38035. And would you think that there should be some fresh start made to try to have a category of prizes for the very numerous classes of low valuations?—under 45 or 55?—It might be worth a trial, but you won't get competition. What they want is education.

38036. Mr. KAVANAGH.—They cannot compete at shows?—No.

38037. Encouragement for drainage, prizes for drainage might be carried out?—Yes.

38038. Mr. O'KELLY.—You give land to each union for the money raised in the union for agricultural purposes?—Yes; as far as possible. Practically it amounts to that.

38039. Do you err on the side of generosity to these unions in making the returns?—Yes. We have special animals, over and above the ordinary animals, placed in these poorer districts. I think at present there are three, but the secretary will give you fuller information.

38040. And the money raised in the richer districts is allocated for these districts?—Of course it all goes into one fund.

38041. I know the procedure perfectly well, but for every £1 raised in the poorer districts there is £1 5s. of grant, and consequently the richer districts get far and away more than the poorer districts. That sounds to reason?—As far as possible the money has been sent to the poorer districts. As far as the committee can do so the money has been sent into the poorer districts.

Mr. John Davis.—Might I supplement that by saying that the reason the poorer districts do not avail themselves of the superior bulls is that the agricultural committee insist on their purchase at one of these shows, and paying 240 before they would get a premium, and the people were unable to invest 240 in a bull.

38043. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—That condition was not possible for the poorer people?

Mr. John Davis.—No.

The Commission adjourned.

SEVENTY-SIXTH PUBLIC SITTING.

MONDAY, 27th MAY, 1907,

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK A.M.,

At the Hall, Geelin, County Tyrone.

Present:—WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; CONOR O'KELLY, Esq., M.P.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

MR. PETER CLARKE EXAMINED.

May 27, 1907.

Mr Peter
Clarke

38044. Mr. KAVANAGH (in the chair).—You are representing what body?—Strahane No. 1 Rural District Council.

38045. And where do you reside?—Pinnelbridge.
38046. You did not hand in any statement of your evidence, Mr. Clarke?—I did, but perhaps it was late. I will explain that.

38047. We have not got it?—Well, the explanation of that is this, that the Strahane Rural District Council as a rule hold a meeting on the second Tuesday of each month, and as a consequence this official document was delayed from the 11th to the 19th, and I had only from the 19th up to the present to make a statement with regard to the twenty electoral divisions of which this district is composed, and when I had it made I sent the statement up to Mr. Callan by Friday's post.

38048. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Up to Dublin?—Yes, to Dawson-street, Dublin. It could not be in his hands of course. He was in Omagh.

38049. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Perhaps you would give us just a short sketch, as we have a great number of witnesses?—I will compress it as much as possible. Perhaps you will permit me just to use my notes. This district that I represent consists of twenty electoral divisions. The area of the whole is 136,682 acres 0 roods 39 perches. The population in 1891 was 26,596, and the total valuation 269,276 £s. The population in 1901 was 27,524, which shows a diminution in the ten years of 8,123. According to the instructions I was only to deal with the very poor divisions, and on examining the twenty electoral divisions I selected seven. Those I selected were Lislea, Pinnelbridge, Glennean, Glencliff, Mount Hamilton, Stranagallilly, and Longhead. The Lislea division is largely mountainous. About 45 per cent. of it has been reclaimed by the tenants. The remainder consists of heather and grazing. The area of it is 6,807 acres 0 roods 18 perches, and the valuation is £1,184 14s., and the population 750. This gives £1 8s. 9d. per capita.

38050. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—That is the valuation per head?—Yes.

38051. When the Act of 1891 was passed the valuation per head stood at £1 8s. 2d.?—Consequently that would suffice to have it scheduled.

38052. Mr. O'KELLY.—But the Act requires a further condition, that 80 per cent. of the population should live in the electoral division, and that should not many of those who have a claim upon the benefits of the Board, if I may say so?—Well, the most part of the soil is not very productive, and as a consequence the farmers save a large quantity of turf during the summer months, which they dispose of in the neighbouring towns, Strahane and Newtownstewart. And as the roads are very hilly and unprotected by hedges the farmers endure great hardships. Any person looking at the map sent at the valley of Glencliff that either bank of the river rises to a great height, and in some places it rises 2,239 feet above sea level, the highest mountain in our division.

38053. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Where does the district lie with reference to where we are now sitting?—It lies west of this.

38054. Towards the west?—Just between Newtownstewart and the border. It goes within half a mile on the other side of the river. You noticed, of course, along the way that the roads are hilly. Although it is a good road from Glennean out, further on towards Pinnelbridge the roads are hilly and not protected by hedges, and the Strahane road particularly, and it is difficult for any man to go across the mountains with a load of turf in the winter time. The only industry in the place is sewing underclothing. There is a valuable sandstone quarry which if worked up would prove remunerative. Specimens of it can be seen in the new Roman Catholic Church, Pinnelbridge. Drainage is very much needed in the district, and if there would be a few arterial drains opened up to give farmers some opportunity of running field drains into it, it would be a great boon to the place. The average height above sea level would be 700 feet.

38055. What class of drainage do you say is required?—Arterial drains, I think; two or three of them, and that, my lord, would give an outlet for the main drains to be put into them.

38056. If the arterial drainages were properly constructed, would the tenants themselves be willing to do the field drainage?—Well, they are very poor, and they would scarcely. In some cases they would and in some cases they would not.

38057. Would a loan to them on reasonable terms be a sufficient inducement?—I think it would my lord, that is if the rate of interest would not be too high.

38058. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Was this land well-drained at one time?—No, never.

38059. In passing along I thought I saw marks of places that were drained, but that unfortunately are choked up a good deal. In passing through the country do you not see evidences of field drains which are evidently stopped up now?—No, there are no evidences in this district, so far as I know.

38060. You think if arterial drainage were opened up, field drainage would follow?—I do, because it is impossible to drain the land without having a proper outlet.

38061. There is no doubt that drainage is very badly wanted in this country?—No doubt of it.

38062. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Are you aware that the Commission which sat on drainage recommended that arterial drains should be opened by a public authority?—I was not aware of that fact, but I think it would be the better course.

38063. Mr. O'KELLY.—You are aware that it would be impossible for land holders to undertake the enormous expense that would be involved in arterial drainage?—It would be impossible, because they are too poor. Many of the tenants in this division have to get leave from the loan fund.

38064. I notice that 77 per cent. of the holdings of Lislea are under £10 valuation. What would be the size of those holdings?—I did not expect that question, but in Ballynasoolin the area is 688 acres and the population is 71; I think it would be about 11 acres for that township.

38065. Would that population represent twenty

May 27, 1907.

Mr. Peter
Clark.

families!—Well about that, perhaps it might be more.

38055. Would they have forty or fifty acres each?—No, not in that case, but only about twelve acres rough and smooth; 975 acres divided by seventy-one gives twelve.

38057. I mean each holder, not the population, but the heads of the family?—Oh, yes, if we take the number as twenty, but I did not go into that.

38058. Is it mountain land?—Yes, certainly, as I have described it. Here would be a glowing case. Crooknashilly has an area of 374 acres 1 rood 2 perches, and a population of fifty-six, and in that there would be something like six acres per unit, and the valuation is £45. It is in the same electoral division, Lides.

38059. Mr. KAVANAGH.—At all events you recommend drainage?—I recommend drainage.

38070. Is there any other recommendation you can lay before us?—Well, I was going to recommend in the end, after dealing with the divisions generally. I will take up the next division, and you might have some questions to ask with regard to this. The next division is Plumbridge. That is also a mountainous division. Some of the mountains rise to a greater height than they do in Lides. A good deal of land is also reclaimed cutaway bog land. The holdings are small and in rundles. Perhaps you may not understand what is meant by rundles.

38071. Oh, yes, that has been thoroughly explained?—This arrangement, as you are aware, involves a great deal of extra trouble, because the buildings cannot be suitably placed, and the children are kept at home to herd these small little plots. The parents are unable to hire herds, and the education of our district suffers very much from that cause, and the compulsory education act is a great hardship to them. It is very hard to make sense of them send them out, and I consider that is a great drawback in Ireland.

38072. Miss Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—It is very easy to find a reasonable plea for education?—There is sure to be a reasonable plea. The area is 5,691a. 2r. 23p. and the population is 678. The valuation is £1,474 2s.

38073. Would it be that that electoral division is not like Lides, poor all over but in special places?—I will just explain. In this electoral division the village of Plumbridge is situated. There are fifteen shopkeepers in the village, eleven publicans, and owing to their position and so forth, the valuations are much higher than what they would be in the other rural district. There are a good number in the country whose valuation is only £4 as houses in the village of Plumbridge whose valuation is £5 10s. Another disturbing factor in this Plumbridge electoral division is that there are two parochial houses. One of them was occupied by the late Father Mages and the other by Father McGearty. This parochial house, Father McGearty's, is valued at £17 3s. The other is in a different township. The parochial houses are situated in two townlands, and the valuation of that other house is £13 10s., making up to £31 for two houses alone in it. The average valuation of the houses in Plumbridge is £5 10s. to £6 10s., and a house in the country within a mile or two of the place has a valuation of £3 10s.

38074. Are there large farmers in the district?—No.

38075. What raises the valuation? It is not merely the two parochial houses?—Oh, yes, and the houses in the village.

38076. Mr. O'Kearney.—Your object would be to exclude the valuation of houses in the town in order to reduce the high valuation of the country?—Yes. There is also another building, a school, and the valuation is very high, and this would cause a great variation. If we would exclude these the place would be more congested than other places. This is an exceptional case with regard to this township. The fact is that it is a very poor place, and the most of the people are all in the loan fund. I called upon an auctioneer in the town the other day to see how they stood, a Mr. Houston, and he took an extract out of his book which showed that he had put in bills, according to the book, £3,001 19s. 9d. and in mortgage £1,445 10s. 1d.

38077. Mr. O'Kearney.—Is this a private loan office?—This is the auctioneer.

38078. He lends this money himself?—He carries out auctions and advances money and has bills.

38079. It is his own private speculation?—Yes.

38080. Mr. KAVANAGH.—That is a small area?—Yes.

38081. Mr. O'Kearney.—What is the interest charged on those advances?—From what I heard I understand that he charges 5 per cent. in the first place for the sale. For getting the money cashed I am told he charges another 5; and if you go to renew the bill it will be another shilling in the pound.

38082. Mr. KAVANAGH.—It is an accommodation to the people?—Yes, at an exorbitant rate. The next division, Glenrann electoral division, is in the same parish. It is mountainous and cold. The inclination of both sides of the valley is still more steep. It is hilly and cold, but there might be a few fertile holes along the water. The area is 5,033a. 2r. 19p. and the population 375. The valuation is £687 15s., something like £1 15s. per capita. The population in 1891 was 667 and in 1901 it was 375; that is a decrease of 72 in the decadal period. This, of course, is owing to emigration. They could not live in the place. The roads are also very hilly, and owing to the configuration of the ground the most skillful engineer could scarcely understand the ground. There is another thing too. There are two main roads, one on either side of the river. The principal one is the road leading from Strabane to Draperstown, Magherafelt, and Belfast; and it opened up the place, and out of this road the other road sprang up in the place.

Generally speaking, of course they are steep-sided roads and fourth class roads, and in this division that I am talking about the highest class of roads is second class and the rest third and fourth class roads. In one township that I analyzed the area was 220a. 1r. 27p., the population 112, and the valuation £85 2s., giving a valuation per capita of 15s. 4d. The next township is even more glaring. The area is 2,192a. 0r. 23p. and the population 337, with a valuation of £56 8s., which gives a rate per capita of 5s. 7d.

38083. Mr. Kearney.—That is Glenrann electoral division?—Yes. The only industry here is sewing and the next division is Glenties.

38084. Miss Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What kind of sewing?—Underclothing, my lord. Glenties is also mountainous, and the soil is of very inferior quality. The area is 3,159a. 8r. 3p., the population 774, and the valuation £139 17s., giving a rate of £1 9s. 6d. per capita.

38085. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Where do they get a market for their produce?—It Belfast?—Well, in this case, and in these particular divisions of Glenties and Glenties, when they are going to get produce to market, the principal markets are Coleraine, Omagh, and Strabane. The night before they go one of the family must sit up till one o'clock in order to make the boys to go to Strabane. They get up and get their horses and go across over the roads so as to be there at eight o'clock in the morning, and when the markets are over it will be late in the evening, and it will be breaking day next day when they will be back in this division; so that is practically nearly two days and two nights they are out on the job; and the roads are such, owing to the hilly nature of them and so on, that the District Council cannot improve them.

38086. Miss Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Where does Glenties lie from Gortin?—It lies north-east.

38087. Towards which of the towns?—Draperstown. It runs up the valley. I have a map here which will show you (produced). As there may be other witnesses I give this evidence only generally on behalf of the District Council. The next division is Mount Hamilton, one of the most mountainous in the county, in which are the Sperrin Mountains, one of the peaks of which rises to 2,233 feet above sea level. Snow lies there for a great length of time during the winter. It is only lately they commenced to put in potatoes there, and practically the snow is nearly all the winter months on those peaks. It is a very large place, with an area of 12,655a. 0r. 23p. The population is 429 and the valuation is £725 10s., an average per acre of 1s. 13d. The land also is very inferior.

38088. Nearly all the holdings in that electoral division are under £10 valuation?—Yes, my lord. Of course there are some of them larger ones, but nearly all are of that kind. Stranagallilly is the next division to Donaghadee parish. The area is 15,255a. 1r. 11p.; the valuation is £398 7s. and the population 303, gives a rate for each individual of £1 2s. 3d. It is largely mountainous, but in this division there is one good thing. Limestone is very abundant in the

mountains along, and there is scarcely a part of the district in which you could not get limestone, and there are bogs abundant in it too, but in other ways the soil is generally poor and steep.

30093. One hundred and seventy-six of the townships are under £4 valuation and 570 additional under £10 valuation?—Yes.

30094. And comparatively few beyond that?—Yes.

30095. What do you suggest as a means of improving the condition of the place—but perhaps you will come to that later?—Well, with regard to Stranagallivilly, that is the one we are on, what I would suggest would be this. There are limestone quarries very abundant there, and Cockstown is the only other limestone quarry that we have in the district. There is no limestone to be found in a range of thirty-four miles in a straight line; and it would be well if these quarries would be opened up and the limestone burned, or if the farmers carried it over here to Glenacasta and this place and got it crushed; but if it was crushed it would not be so active on the soil as it is in the curative state. It would be well if this industry would be set up in the place. And there is another thing. The peat industry could be set up too, and I would suggest the propriety of opening an arterial drain in Stranagallivilly district. There is a low-lying portion of it, and one part of it could be drained in the Plumbridge direction and the other portion of it could be drained in the Donemana direction, and it could be opened up. It is just like a sugarcane going along. It would drain the land on both sides, and this bog could be converted into meadows.

30096. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is there enough demand for lime to get a limestone quarry opened?—Yes, the demand for lime would be enormous.

30097. Is it used in top-dressing in this country?—Yes, but it would be used to a greater extent if the facilities were better. If the inland portion of the country from these quarries could be opened up along here to join with Cockstown, then we would have limestone at either end of the line.

30098. What do you call opening up?—By means of a light railway or something of that kind. In that case the farmers of the central portion could either go to Cockstown or to this place, because they have no other limestone in any other place.

30099. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The light railway would bring the lime down to them?—Yes.

30100. And before it is lined you would have the land drained?—I would, because lime without drainage is of no use.

30101. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What do you pay for lime by the barrel?—£11. 6d. a ton I pay.

30102. You do not count it by the barrel?—If you count it by the barrel they charge 1s. 6d. in Cockstown.

30103. I understand there are two sizes of barrels, and that is the larger size of barrel?—That is what I understand, the larger.

30104. How many barrels would you carry in a horse load?—I would rather go on what I am practically acquainted with. I am not so well acquainted with the Cockstown district as the Stranagallivilly, but I heard some of the carters in the parish say that something like five barrels would be a heavy load, an extreme load.

30105. That is the large barrels you see talking of?—I am practically acquainted with it in the case of Stranagallivilly.

30106. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The Chairman suggests to you that there may be some variety in the measure that you call a barrel. What is the weight of the barrel?—I could not tell you. I think the ton would be the better standard.

30107. Mr. KAVANAGH.—It is the large barrel. But you think there would be demand enough to get a limestone quarry industry established if the country was opened up by a light railway?—Yes.

30108. Has that been brought at all before the Commission that is sitting on the railways of Ireland?—Well, I am not aware. I saw it reported in some of the daily papers that Dr. Todd, of Derry, suggested the practicability of opening a light railway from Donemana to Cockstown, and another suggestion was a railway from Castleberg to Pettigo, and another connection in the Derry direction to join Dungiven with Deseruiden. Now, the only other electoral division is Longshank. That is a very poor district. The area is 6,023a. 2r. 8p. and the valuation £1,308 12s. The population is 683, and the value-

tion unit is 21 7s. 2d. Limestone is very abundant in this district, also lead and silver ore, but all these places there abound with lime. Well, in Longshank the population in 1881 was 1,107 and in 1901 it was 883, showing a decrease of 224 in twenty years. In Stranagallivilly electoral division the population in 1881 was 709 and in 1901 it was 633, a decrease of 76. In Mount Hamilton in 1881 the population was 639, in 1901 it was 420, a decrease of 219. In Gleneliff in 1881 the population was 1,064; in 1901 it was 774, a decrease of 290. In Gleneliff in 1881 the population was 735 and in 1901 it was 575, a decrease of 160. In Plumbridge in 1881 the population was 1,292 and in 1901 it was 872, a decrease of 420. In Liscara in 1881 the population was 1,139; in 1901 it was 793, a decrease of 346. I think I would not be doing justice altogether to the Council that I have the honour to represent if I were to omit the opportunity of a certain thing I want to bring under your notice. There are some industries—of course prosperous Ulster could not be without having some industries—in Rion Mills. In Altachady and East Ulmy electoral divisions Meen. Herdman have 1,200 hands employed, and they get wages there from 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. per week. I merely mention this; but there was another thing that struck me forcibly when I was analysing it, regarding the population of these two divisions. The factory is situated in Altachady, and the other division of East Ulmy comes near it, so that many of the population are working in the mills, and the population of these two electoral divisions has increased while the population of the other eighteen divisions has decreased, and I think that would be in consequence of the steady work in the mills. I mention this to show that if there was work in the place there would not be so much depression.

30109. There being a decrease in one case and an increase in the other, you think they have migrated from one to the other?—No, no.

30110. How do you account for it?—By the steady work in the mills.

30111. But where do they come from—that is what I meant?—They remain there.

30112. Mr. O'KEEFE.—How long are these mills going?—I know the place forty years. I could give you the numbers if it were necessary.

30113. And they earn from 3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. a week?—Yes.

30114. Now, about how much do the girls earn per week?—I take it that it is at least 3s. 6d.. The work is divided into five or six sections. At the entrance they get 3s. 6d., and it runs up to a maximum of 4s. 6d.

30115. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do some of the workers come every day from Stranagallivilly?—Some of them do, my lord; but that is another electoral division. And I think if there were some industry like that established it would be a help to a number of people in the country.

30116. Your point is that the establishment of a big industry like that at Rion Mills has a beneficial effect on a considerable area all round?—Yes.

30117. In the way of giving employment?—Yes.

30118. And if that could be initiated in the poorer districts, even on a small scale, it would be a useful improvement?—That is the conclusion I come to, my lord.

30119. Or any industry instituted that would bring employment to the homes of the people?—Yes; such as home-spin, or things of that kind.

30120. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Has it stopped emigration round about there?—It has, certainly.

30121. They stay at home instead of going to America?—Yes; because they think they would not be as well paid. They are much better paid than they would be in Scotland, for instance.

30122. Is there any migratory labour to Scotland or England for harvesting?—Yes, there is; and not only for that, but it is in the poverty of the place that causes them to go. In these particular places round about Plumbridge and Glenageary, for instance, some of the parents of the children have to go during the summer months to England and Scotland to earn money to support the children at home.

30123. Is there any employment for men in these Rion Mills?—Oh, yes; it is not confined to females altogether. Of course, there are engineers, mechanics, and so on.

30124. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In continuation of the Chairman's question, do you know the proportion of the workers that would be men?—My lord, I did not go into that.

May 27, 1907.
Mr. Peter
Clarke.

May 27, 1907.
Mr. Peter
Clark.

38181. Would the employers mainly be women?—Well, I think they would, from what I saw of them on going out. But I am only giving a general answer. It was only the rate of wages I went into.

38182. Mr. O'Keary.—Is there a rate struck in that district for educational and technical instruction purposes?—There is; a penny in the £.

38183. Have the small farmers under £10 valuation derived any benefit from that expenditure?—I will answer you as to No. 1 District.

38184. Can you tell me what proportion of the money raised by the local Technical Education Committee and the money sent as an equivalent grant by the Department reaches the small men of this county?—In the districts that I quoted there I do not think one penny reaches them at all. They have the pleasure of paying the rate without deriving any benefit from it at all.

38185. You represent Strabane Rural District No. 11?—Yes.

38186. Can you tell me in what way Strabane Rural District No. 1 is benefited by the application of this money?—Well, those divisions that I mentioned there derive no benefit whatever. The only people I see that have had any benefit from it are the itinerant lecturers, who gave four lectures, and the instructors in poultry, who gave four lectures. In other words, they can teach the whole science of farming in four lectures, so far as tillage and live stock and so on, and as concerns poultry-keeping. They can teach it all in four lectures. That is all we get in those places. We had no experimental plots or demonstration plots. There was a shorticorn pedigree bull introduced into the place recently; that died. So that the whole thing is a sham with regard to these electoral divisions.

38187. You are a farmer yourself?—Yes.

38188. As a practical farmer, what is your opinion of the present value of the itinerant instruction?—I value it as nothing. It is very good to get the farmers assembled in a hall, and describe up-to-date methods; but they say, "It is all bunk; we know all these things ourselves." If you want to do anything you should begin at the beginning. Begin with the youth. Establish model farms in which the science and

practice of agriculture can be efficiently taught, and then you will have a class of farmers to make; but to train adult farmers now is, I think, rather late in the day.

38189. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But would not you approve of demonstration plots?—Yes.

38190. You could see that?—Yes.

38191. But you do not believe so much in the instruction?—No.

38192. Mr. O'Keary.—Who derives most advantage from this expenditure?—I think round about Cookstown and the Tullybeg country, and round about Coagh and Dungannon.

38193. I will put the question in a different way. What class of people in the county derive most benefit from this expenditure?—If I went into that I would be mainly going on political lines.

38194. We do not know politics—at present at any rate?—I could not separate politics in this matter.

38195. I am talking now of those who benefit most from this expenditure. I am talking merely of large farmers, irrespective of politics. I think you will find a Nationalist farmer who is a large farmer is as selfish as a large Unionist farmer?—I even grant that; but where the majority is either Unionist or Nationalist that affects the question.

38196. I am not talking of Unionists or Nationalists, but my whole object in putting the question is to elicit your view as a farmer. I merely ask you what class of people in this county, no matter what their politics are, derive most benefit, in your view, from this expenditure. If you say you do not know I will accept that as an answer.

38197. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Perhaps you do not quite see the drift of the question at that moment, but you could answer it, I am sure, if you saw the drift of it. Mr. O'Kelly means to ask you whether it is the small farmer or the large farmer?—It is the large farmer, my lord. Of course, he has more influence.

38198. Mr. O'Keary.—Then, your view would be that those who need the paternal attention of a lord of the kind do not receive it, and that those who are comparatively well able to look after themselves derive most benefit from these schemes?—Yes.

Mr. MICHAEL RATTERY examined.

Mr. Michael
Rattery.

38199. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Where do you live, Mr. Rattery?—In Carrickmore.

38200. You represent the Omagh Rural District Council?—Yes.

38201. And you have prepared a pencil of your evidence. Read it, and we will ask you questions as you go along?—My evidence principally relates to the Carrickmore portion of the rural district, and I have made inquiries as to the valuation of four electoral divisions at this end of the district, which are as follows:—Atherry, £3,835; Carrickmore, £1,556; Creggan, £711; Loughmacrory, £7,368. I have also inquired from the Census Department as to the population of these electoral divisions, and find it to be as follows:—Atherry, 1,188; Carrickmore, 1,665; Creggan, 602; Loughmacrory, 680. The greater portion of Atherry is of a small valuation, but a couple of townlands near the town of Carrickmore increase it considerably, and make the average fairly high. I am well acquainted with the position of the tenants on the Sir Hugh H. Stewart estate, which comprises the electoral divisions I have mentioned, and I know that the tenants on this estate are of a poor class, and have to depend, to a very large extent, on assistance received from members of their families, either in America or in England and Scotland, for their support, and to help them to discharge their rent. There has been a great deal of emigration in these parts of the country, and nearly all the young men and women leave it. The management of the estate has been for some years past in the hands of an agent of the Graham Insurance Company (who are insurance-men), and the tenants are treated harshly by this agent. The following are some instances:—First, when a tenant applies to the Land Commission to have a second judicial rent fixed on his holding he is immediately served with a civil bill process for any rent which might be due.

Secondly, when tenants who are in arrears were evicted on the "eviction-made-easy system" afterwards they or some members of their families were re-instated at a raised rent, and thereby constituted future tenants, and unable subsequently to gain the benefits of the Land Act. Thirdly, where farms were divided by a tenant amongst members of his family by will the agent generally consented to such division, but raised the rent on the portions, so that the total was greater than the original rent.

38202. Was there much sub-division among the tenants?—Not to any extent.

38203. You do mention that there were certain instances of it?—Certain instances, but not to a great extent, but that fact is a part of the system which has been prevalent on the estate. Arrears accumulated, and of course the poor people were not able to pay the arrears, and the consequence was that the agent consented in some cases that supposing the rent was £5 he would consent that they should undertake for the next fifteen years to become future tenants on the condition that they paid £7 or £8.

38204. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Where is that estate?—It is the estate of Sir Hugh Stewart, at Loughmacrory, Creggan, Carrickmore, and Atherry.

38205. And you have indicated to us that the existence of arrears acted as a deterrent to prevent tenants from having second term rents fixed?—Yes; to a great extent.

38206. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The sub-division was only among members of the family?—Only among members of the family.

38207. There is not much sub-division in the way of selling the tenants' interest?—Not much. In some instances it occurs, but not much, but in case of selling in some instances of course, the agent consents to the farmer selling a portion of his land, but in

that case, the purchaser generally pays a higher rent, and the two rents together are much higher than the original rent, and the consequence is that although the Land Courts have been in existence for a long time, in that part of the country I believe the total income of the landlord has never decreased because, though in some cases they have got a fair reduction and are fairly well off, in others the rents were allowed to stand, and in a great many cases, in fact, they were raised. The tenants on this estate were offered, some years ago, terms of sale, which were based on the calculation of 15 years' purchase, but since the year 1903 the agent's demands have been based on a 27 years' purchase. The only industry in this part of the district is one of the Post Office Letter Company, who are beside the railway station at Carrickmore, but employ only a small number. A stone quarry for road metal of the best quality is situated in this district, and it was proposed by the County Council of Tyrone to open it up, but owing to the exorbitant price demanded by the landlord's representative it had to be abandoned. There is a great necessity for a road through the division of Creggan, and a proposal for that purpose was brought before the Rural District Council, when the County Surveyor for the northern division of the county stated that there was not an acre in the county so much in want of such a road as this, but owing to the poor class who require this road it was not carried out. I am aware that considerable sums of money are sent by members of families of tenants in this district to assist them, as I have often enabled American drafts and money orders from England and Scotland. I have been in communication with the Congested Districts Board for Ireland and the Estates Commissioners as to the probate of the estate of Sir Hugh H. Stewart, but up to the present neither of these bodies have seen their way to interfere. Since the Graham Insurance Company took over Sir H. H. Stewart's Estate the rents of the town tenants have been doubled and in some instances increased almost five-fold.

38148. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In Carrickmore?—The town tenants in Carrickmore.

38149. Is that electoral division the number of occupiers with holdings under 24 valuations is 600, and under £10 valuation an additional 217, and over £20 valuation in this electoral division there are only 51 holdings?—I believe that is correct, my lord.

38150. You will not be surprised then to know, if you have not adverted to it already, that the Poor Law Valuation in Carrickmore electoral division is only £1 2s. 6d. per head?—Yes; in Creggan electoral division, £1 1s. 6d.; in Loughmonee division, £1 5s. 11d.; and in Athlery, £2 14s. 6d. The employment of that is that in Athlery there are large holdings, Colonel Alexander's and Davidson's and Johnston's, and there is a great valuation on them; and there are large houses that send the valuation away altogether above the average. But if you take out one or two townlands in Athlery you will find that many of the townlands of Athlery are the same as the other three electoral divisions of Creggan, Carrickmore, and Loughmonee.

38151. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You mentioned a stone quarry. Is it limestone?—There is limestone in the district, and this quarry I refer to is, perhaps, one of the best whinstone quarries. The Tyrone County

Surveyor inspected this several times and made a report to the council to obtain this quarry for road metal for metalling the roads of the district, and the tenant who owns the place, so far as his interest was concerned, was willing to part with it at a reasonable price, but the landlord was exorbitant and wanted £100 per acre for the stone, and the council thought in their judgment and wisdom that it would not be a wise transaction to pay such a sum.

38152. What property is that?—Sir Hugh Stewart's.

38153. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Has much land been sold to the tenants in that area?—No, my lord. I believe none at all. They have been applying several times, and 27 years' purchase is demanded.

38154. The demand has gone up since the 1903 Act?—Yes, considerably. They were willing to take 15 years' purchase before.

38155. On what terms were they willing to take 15 years' purchase—first term rents, I suppose?—First term rents.

38156. At all events, they were the current rents at the time?—They were the current rents at that time.

38157. Mr. KAVANAGH.—And the 27 years' purchase would be on second term rental?—Yes.

38158. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What remedy would you have to suggest for those 600 small holders who are under 24 valuations in the Carrickmore electoral division?—I think if this stone quarry was opened up—and there is a limestone quarry in the district too—it would be of considerable benefit.

38159. Mr. KAVANAGH.—And it would give employment?—Yes; it would give employment in the district, and I happen to be connected with an emigration agency, and I know of my own knowledge that the people, if they could get employment at home, would remain at home.

38160. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is there any good land that could be acquired by any public body?—A very small quantity of it, just what the landlords use.

38161. Mr. KAVANAGH.—And all that, you state, is under cultivation at the present moment?—Almost, except the mountainous portion. Of course there are five or six wooded farms in the place.

38162. In whose hands are those at the present moment?—In the landlords' hands.

38163. That is a matter for the Estates Commissioners of course?—Yes.

38164. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—If that past industry succeeded on a large scale the employment it would give would be very useful for the sons of farmers in the electoral division?—Very useful, my lord, and more so in the division called Creggan, where past is even more plentiful, and in the same division, Creggan, there is a very wide area without any road, and the largest area in the county, at least in the Omagh rural district, according to the County Surveyor. By the want of a road in the Creggan electoral division they are put to great inconvenience.

38165. In that division alone the number of small holdings is very large—280 under 54 and 381 under £10; and only 30 above £10?—Yes, and I expect, my lord, and I hope and trust, you will find your way to schedule this part of the country to the Congested Districts Board as a congested area, since the tenants are in a very miserable state and have no means of improving their position.

Rev. JOHN MCCONNELL examined.

38166. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You are the Parish Priest of Temonagassan?—Yes.

38167. What district are you from?—I am from Castlederg Poor Law Division, Temonagassan, and my residence will be rather general, dealing with the whole mountainous district extending from the border of Donegal on to the County Derry. I think it is all very much alike, and I believe that in addition to the other districts, in which the Congested Districts Board has recently established a beneficial system of help, there are also districts of a different description equally needing their aid, if the Board had larger power and more money to dispose of, areas where the land is so poor that it will not support the population required to cultivate it; and I think such areas should be scheduled as congested, and put under the control of the Congested Districts Board; and for this purpose it would be necessary to widen the scope of the definition of a congested district, and also to amend the law as to the time of scheduling such congested areas. I am aware that this Commission cannot legislate, but only recommend, and I would take the liberty of suggesting an amended definition of a congested district that I think would take in these mountainous districts, which are like the belt of high land extending from the County Donegal boundary well into the County Derry. The condition of the population of this extensive tract is much alike all over. Agriculture is, I may say, the main industry. The soil is, for the most part, extremely poor, and gives a very inadequate return for the amount of labour expended on it; and the land where tilled will in a couple or three years, go out of cultivation, and return to its original

May, 27, 1905.

M. Michael
Ex. Off.

Rev. John
McConnell.

May 27, 1907.

Rev. John
McConaghe.

wild state, except the cultivation is kept up continuously, and is not fitted for laying out on grass land, like the fertile land down in the valley, and the climate is so bad that it is only in an exceptional year that the people can manage to get in their crops in anything like reasonable time. It is only a person dwelling in a country-side like this that can speak with the accuracy derived from experience. For the last ten years I have been living in this district, and I have an idea of it now that I had not before. This present year it has been almost impossible for a great number of the people to get in their crops in anything like time. Only last Friday I saw a number of people trying to plant their potatoes. The result is that the crops do not mature, and that the labour expended in cultivating them is for the most part lost. We have the people labouring, and the result is so poor that they are labouring in vain. And the people of this whole mountainous district, though industrious, have a very hard struggle to exist; and as the result of their own labour, and the labour of those who have gone before them, is sunk in the improvement of their holdings, these people cling on to the land even when the situation is most desperate. I am connected with the parish of Ternaunangan, which about fairly illustrates the condition of the whole mountainous district. The area of the parish is 45,560 acres, the valuation is £7,105, and the population at the last Census was 4,252. According to Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, the population in 1837 was 7,850, showing a decrease of 3,600 in forty-four years. If the population was anything like what it was seventy years ago this parish would hardly come under the present definition of congestion, and I think it is too hard that because the population has fallen away this parish should be punished. But it is excluded, and the reason that it is excluded is simply owing to the present definition of congestion. The fewer the people the higher will be the valuation per acre. I maintain that population alone is not the true test of the necessity of any particular area. The poor quality of the soil, the climate, the remoteness of transport facilities, and the absence of any suitable industry should, I think, be taken into consideration. By this same authority (Lewis) it is stated that less than a quarter of the parish of Ternaunangan was under cultivation, and I believe there was more of the land in the parish cultivated seventy years ago than now, as you see from the homesteads and all that; and, of course, some land was reclaimed, but more has gone out of cultivation than I believe was reclaimed; and the trouble now is that the people are too few to cultivate the land, and yet there are more people than the land will support. I can safely say that the parish is in a deplorable state financially. Three-fourths of the occupiers are hopelessly sunk in debt. I have very grave fears for the immediate future. The situation seems to be hopeless now. The parish of Longfield is situated much in the same way as Ternaunangan. The combined area of the two parishes is 79,015 acres, and there is no railway through the parishes, though the parishes have to pay a guarantee for the Outsliding Railway. The description Lewis gives of Ternaunangan is that it is deeply wooded, and the opinion of the people is as great now as it was seventy years ago; and the same description applies to the parish of Longfield. Ternaunangan is, I may say, a type of all the other parishes comprised within this zone. Except where the Great Northern Railway cuts it, between Strabane and Omagh, the whole district of over 300,000 acres is cut off from railway facilities; and the definition that I suggest would take the land alone and leave out the buildings, because the buildings were erected, and they are maintained at the cost of the occupier, and are rather a tax on their resources than a source of income to them, and I think the valuation of the land alone is the more reliable test. And as to the electoral division, I think it is not a fair unit for the definition of a congested district. Sometimes it would be as difficult to get an electoral division scheduled as a whole parish. For instance, in Ternaunangan we have electoral divisions eight miles long, and, of course, there is a great variety of land in the district; and I would make the township the lowest limit of the definition, and go upwards as far as necessary.

38168. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—An electoral division might easily contain a considerable number of large holdings.—Yes.

38169. Which would prevent the poorer areas within that electoral division from being scheduled?—Yes.

38170. Mr. KAYMAK.—That objection might also apply to the townland, might not it?—Well, I think not. My suggested amendment of the definition would be this, and I am not disturbing the present definition of congestion, although I am adding something to it. My suggested amendment of the definition of congested districts is as follows:—Any area, though less than a poor low electoral division and not less than a township, where the total rateable value of the land, when divided by the number of the population, gives a rate of less than £2 10s. for each individual, or where the total rateable value of the land of any area, not less than a township, if divided by the total acreage of said area, gives a rate of less than 5s. per acre, may be declared congested, and be scheduled as such, notwithstanding any limitation as to time for scheduling, as laid down in Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, sec. 36 (q).

38171. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Then you would make two changes?—Yes.

38172. You would reduce the area to the township?—Yes.

38173. And you would take in an acreage standard?—Yes; and I believe, as to the quality of the land, it is the best way of determining the poor quality of the land, and I have been examining into this thing. There are seventy-two townlands in the parish I am in, and there is no land of first quality in the whole parish, and I find that the average of a township of really rather poor quality would be 5s. an acre, so that I should think that when the total valuation would only average 5s. an acre it should be fairly considered as congested on account of the poor quality of the land.

38174. You consider that a township should be scheduled if either of the conditions applied?—Yes.

38175. Or do you require that both should apply?—No. I would put "or." That would leave the present definition. With the change of "townland" for "electoral division" I would leave the present definition as it is. That would take in one class of areas. I would then divide the acreage into the valuation to take another, a poor class of soil.

38176. The objection which, at first sight, would occur to one with reference to that second qualification, Father McConaghe, would be this—that if in a township with comparatively good holdings there was a large mountain tract, apparently that tract would bring about the scheduling of that township—I think it would be no great loss. I think it is an advantage to have some strong farmers in a township or district, and if they reaped a little advantage it would be so long.

38177. Mr. O'Kelly.—Suppose the valuation was 7s. what would you do?—I think at that valuation it would be sufficient to make out a living.

38178. You think that if there was a township in the electoral division where the valuation was one 7s. that township would not answer the definition?—Yes.

38179. Have you any land in your mind's eye where the valuation is 7s. 1s.—Yes.

38180. And where the people are able to maintain themselves properly?—Well, all they can do is, that they can merely exist. They cannot live.

38181. And would not your definition exclude them?—Yes. Even so, you must draw the line somewhere. I mean that it would take in this wide area of fifty miles, say, from the borders of Donegal on to the County Derry. I would rather have a large area scheduled than a smaller one; and I believe that when the whole valuation of the parish would fall within my definition I would schedule the whole parish or union of parishes.

38182. Do you not know that there are many of the worst districts in Ireland where the valuation is 20s. 1?—Oh, yes; but I would leave the present definition to cover that. I would not touch the present definition.

38183. Do you mean the definition of a congested district?—Yes; I would not touch that.

38184. I do not think your suggestion would meet the case even then, even if you have the valuation as low as 6s.; still, if you have not a fifth of the population, 20 per cent., resident within the electoral division you could not schedule it.—But that would not be necessary. I do not go into that.

38185. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would you get rid of that condition to which Mr. O'Kelly refers—

that 20 per cent. of the population should live in the electoral division?—Yes; I would get rid of that, because it is only incidental.

36180. Mr. KARANAK.—You would not do away with the present definition. You would simply add your definition to it?—Yes; and I would change from the electoral division, and make the township the unit.

36181. Have you worked it out at all in your district—this 20 per cent. definition?—I have.

36182. And you find that that would cover the poor townlands in your district?—Yes, I think so.

36183. You have actually worked it out?—Yes.

36184. You have found that the test will apply?—Yes; that it would apply to this mountain district we are talking about here now.

36185. You notice his lordship's objection might apply?—There might be some odd ones—some strong farmers—but I think that is a benefit. There would not be many.

36186. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have you gone through all your notes now?—Yes, practically.

36187. Mr. O'Donnell.—The average value of all land in the County Tyrone is 9s. I will assume that. That is a reason that if it falls below it it should be scheduled.

36188. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I should like to ask you a couple of questions with reference to your interesting statement that the district which you know best and in which you are now situated suffers very much from its remoteness?—Yes.

36189. The transit facilities are wanting?—Yes.

36190. Has any scheme been proposed to improve the transit facilities?—Oh, yes, there was a scheme, but it came to nothing. There was talk of a railway from Castlelog to Pettigo, but only talk.

36191. You state that the occupiers are under a load of debt?—Yes, hopelessly so.

36192. You consider that if the area were scheduled under the Congested Districts Board, or any such body, the accruing advantages would enable the occupiers to get into a better position?—I hope so.

36193. What would be the main lines of the improvement which you would recommend?—Really, there are so many things that I can hardly state anything definitely. There are so many things required; and one thing would be—some witness here referred to it—some instruction or agricultural teaching by pole or something in that way. You require that. In the schools now the teaching of agriculture is stopped altogether, and the young people in country districts have no opportunity of getting instruction. And that is one thing.

36194. That is one of the points I was anxious to ask you on, knowing your practical experience. What would you think of this?—Would it be a good thing if one of the National schools in the parish in a central position was made a centre for teaching prac-

tical agriculture to the boys attending it from their tender years?—I think it would be an excellent thing.

36195. A system of that kind would require an agricultural college in which the teachers should be trained?—Yes, certainly.

36196. The teacher should have a practical and theoretical knowledge of agriculture?—Yes.

36197. Do you consider that the boys at such a school might learn horticulture and the light operations of agriculture from tender years without their tending on the farms that is now given to the ordinary school work?—I think they might, and it would only improve their ordinary education.

36198. Now, after beginning with that school, do you think it would be good to continue that class of education by planting down in a parish like yours of a farm tractorator who would show the people what could be done by treading the soil in the best way and by turning to the best account improved breeds of stock and poultry?—That would be my idea.

36199. Would you consider that a practical agricultural course of that kind begun with tender years and going up to manhood would produce a great result?—Yes.

36200. Is there drainage also wanted?—Oh, yes, of course there are; not arterial drainage, I think, but surface drainage, and the sub-soil is very shallow in the middle of the parish. It is a parish in which there would require to be a great deal of spade labour. It is the only way the people could have any crops, and unfortunately there is not the population now to do that.

36201. What kind of houses have the people?—Fairly good. Of course they could be improved. That is one thing I would be anxious to see. I would be anxious to see it under the Parish Committee scheme. I have not any personal experience of the Congested Districts Board's working, but from what I hear with regard to housing and all that, I believe it is excellent work. I know myself that people are satisfied all over where it has been in operation, and, of course, in the adjoining parish of Pettigo and other parts of Donaghry round there that are congested, the people all speak well of the Board, and they are all satisfied that to the extent of their funds they are doing a great deal of good.

36202. Under the County Scheme has your parish derived much benefit?—Not much. Those County Scheme centres themselves in more populous places. The parish generally is scattered. They centre themselves on places like Strabane and in the locality of Castlelog.

36203. Might it not be put this way, that the poorer districts require much more intensive treatment, and they receive less benefit than the richer districts?—Exactly.

Mr. JAMES MOSEY examined.

36204. Mr. KARANAK.—You represent the parish of Donaghry?—Donaghry, and two electoral divisions, Loughnah and Strangafelity. You have already the statistics from Mr. Clarke and I quite agree with all that he has said; but there are some things that perhaps I could submit. In Loughnah there are 45 per cent.—

36205. We have a great deal of statistics in the statistical abstract for the county, which has been prepared by the secretary, so that that is a matter of repetition?—Well, with regard to the condition of the people in both these districts, the farmers are not able to support themselves. They cannot take the rent of the land, and still support themselves and their families; and there is no work for men or boys to do in the place, and thus they are either emigrating to America or going to Scotland. This country is totally without railway facilities, and if any industries were started the products could not be brought to market economically. It is necessary then to have a railway first, and after that there are some industries that could follow. Now, we have some raw material in the district that if utilised would give employment to a good number. There is a deposit of limestone that stretches for six miles from the village of Donemana to near Plunbridge, and if we had any means of getting the turned lime conveyed we could supply all the country up to Cookstown, and thus

would give employment to a good many people there. Mr. James—

We could send it also down towards Derry; but so long as there is no railway there is no use in attempting this, because the cost of carting would be too great and they could make nothing of it. Then we have some good deposits of brickclay, and if we had any means of getting the products out we could manufacture brick and draining tiles, roofing tiles, flooring tiles, and other things belonging thereto. There are certain deposits of peat in the district, and if we had any cheap means of conveyance we could start the manufacture of peat litter, &c. But till a railway is made nothing can be done of all this.

36206. All those industries depend on the laying of a railway?—Yes.

36207. But the country is very mountainous?—Yes. But there is a valley running from Donemana to Plunbridge, and on to Cookstown, almost level, and a railway could be made very easily through that valley.

36208. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The terminal being Donemana and Cookstown?—Yes, something of that nature. And there are a lot of minerals likely to be found in the district, which has never been properly prospected. I believe if there were any means of doing this there would be minerals got in it which would give employment to the people. I think they have found lead and silver ore in both

May 25, 1907.

Mr. James
Moore.

electoral divisions, and I have brought a specimen of lead ore (produced).

38215. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have you brought this under the notice of the Board of Agriculture?—No, there is another specimen (produced). That is silver.

38216. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Lead and silver are frequently got together?—Yes, frequently. I believe it is silver. I won't say distinctly; but that is the case.

38217. Mr. O'Kelly.—Were those mines ever worked?—The mines are not open. There are taken out of rocks in the district. In fact I took them out myself so as to show what is to be had there.

38218. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You ought to send some of these up to the Board of Agriculture?—Your Board might get them sent on.

38219. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Were those mines ever opened?—No, they were never opened. They are merely just touched on the top of the rocks. It is merely to show you that these things exist in the district, and there is no want of working them, and the people have no means of getting employment unless they go to Scotland or America, but if there was a line of railway made the opening up of some of these works would give employment to a good number.

Mr. Badden this, there are many parts of these districts that would benefit from planting with trees, and that in itself would be a great means of improving the climate, because the climate is very severe throughout these hills, and it would give a good deal of much-needed employment. We have also in these two divisions a good deal of water power that is going to waste, and it might be possible to establish factories of various kinds, woollen and carpentering, and perhaps a bleach-green or something of that nature.

38220. Mr. KAVANAGH.—It is a sheep country?—Yes, generally a hardy class of sheep. I think that is all I have to say.

38221. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You have brought before the Commission several local industries that might be developed if a light railway was made?—Yes, and that would give employment to the people, because the people are not able to live on the land. If they were not getting money from abroad they could hardly hold their own.

38222. Did they spray in that district last year?—Well, a good many of them did; but the poorer farmers did not, as a rule.

REV. THOMAS J. AGNEW CONTINUED.

Rev. Thomas
J. Agnew.

38223. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Where are you from, Father Agnew?—I live at Roscrea, near Gortin, here. I may say that my evidence is just the connecting link between the evidence which you got at Cookstown as to Greenacres and the evidence that has been given here this morning with reference to this Glenties parish by Mr. Clarke, representing the Glenties District Council. He gave evidence here representing from Stranishup up to Plinisk, and this is the connecting link between that and the evidence as to Greenacres, portion of which you received in Cookstown.

38224. Where are you going to give evidence for?—For the parish of Lower Ballyvaughan.

38225. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Will that evidence of yours include the mountain side that you see on the left coming in here to Gortin?—Yes. The parish of Lower Ballyvaughan comprises portions of five electoral divisions, viz., Gortin, Fallow, Ternamadan, Glenties, and Crookanagh, all of which belong to the Omagh Union. The percentage of holdings not exceeding £10 valuation in these divisions is as follows:—Gortin, 54 per cent.; Fallow, 65 per cent.; Ternamadan, 65 per cent.; Glenties, 85 per cent., and Crookanagh, 85 per cent.; while for fifteen townlands that lie within the boundaries of the parish the average valuation per head of population is under 30s. All of these electoral divisions do not belong to the parish, but parts of them do. For the fifteen townlands that come immediately into the parish, the average valuation over all is £1 2s. 5d. per head of the present population, and the valuation per acre in these electoral divisions would be, for Gortin, 6s. 2d. (that is explained by the fact that Gortin Electoral Division includes the village area); Crookanagh, 3s. 1d.; Ternamadan, 3s. 5d.; Fallow, 8s. 2d.; and Glenties, 1s. 9d. The valuation per acre including, of course, the houses. These fifteen townlands are supposed to give support to a present population of 2,180 people. But not alone by reason of the low rateable valuation has this district a claim to help, but by reason also of the very situation of the locality it will be evident to anyone who has seen the district that it is for the most part mountainous. The parish that I speak for consists absolutely of steep mountain sides, with little patches of level homes along the banks of the rivers. These homes are not of such value as might at first appear, for, though level, they are subject to flooding. This deters the farmers from planting them with root crops or oats, and hence they are merely kept for grazing, but even as such they are not at all profitable as the deposits of mud left upon the grass have an injurious effect upon the cattle. A young cow that is put upon that grass in two years can be sold only as an old cow.

38226. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The oats are injured?—Yes, by the deposit of sand.

38227. Mr. KAVANAGH.—And does the flooding take place frequently?—Yes; and in one place I have seen

where in twenty-four hours there were the highest floods. In that short time they rose to the greatest height. And the courses of the rivers have changed, so that a man whose father owned part of the land on this side of the river now owns it on the other side of the river; and the river has completely changed its course in this case.

38228. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—And tillage is not possible on these holdings?—Scarcely possible, and it is risky, and so much so that the farmers are deterred from ploughing on it. And the people are far from market towns. My own place in Roscrea may be taken as the centre of the district. We are over thirteen miles from Omagh and sixteen from Cookstown. I have often heard the farmers say that it takes two nights and a day to take their produce to market. That is to say, they leave home in the middle of this night and they get back in the middle of to-morrow night, or sometimes in the morning, and of course it is a very severe labour on the horses. They have to carry their loads over bare mountain roads. And tillage is very difficult in a mountainous district, and it is seldom that a plough is seen in use till the middle of March. The land is too wet in the winter for ploughing, and if the spring is wet, as often happens, the people are seriously handicapped owing to the difficulty of obtaining horse labour. In the present year there was still a large quantity of the potato crop to be planted up to the 12th of May, and even up to the present moment, and as to the potato crop especially, if the autumn comes in wet it is doubtful if these people will have a potato crop at all.

38229. The blight would attack the potatoes?—The blight would attack them. And they spray to some extent, but I do not think it is done as well as it might be done. They are not able to afford it.

38230. Mr. KAVANAGH.—This is an exceptionally backward year?—I do not think so. During the past year I saw potatoes dug up by the people for the use of their families that would not be considered as good food for swine.

38231. But this is an exceptionally backward year?—It is a rather late spring. I think the people are too much dependent on the potato crop in the district. If it fails it is practically famine.

38232. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—If the year were a good year and the potatoes put in early would there be some danger of the crops suffering from the late frosts?—Not so much; not nearly so much. But, of course, a good deal could be done that might improve these farms and this is particularly so on the narrow level slopes with a northern or north-eastern aspect, and in many parts of these the corn crop does not become a really ripe crop and does not assume that yellow appearance that a proper corn crop would have. It is a sort of green colour. When I came to the district first I was surprised to see the height to which they had carried cultivation. Right to the

very summit of these rugged mountains pass after pass had given way to reclamation by the tenant, but unfortunately anyone can see that a great deal of this is going back to its natural barren state. There are a good many causes for that. I should say that the principal reason is the absence of lime in the locality. And then there is another thing. In ploughing this land a great deal of it has to be filled in the one direction. The ploughing must be all down hill. The horses can only take the empty plough up the hill, and if it costs a farmer in the lowland a pound to plough an acre it would cost here two pounds—the poorer the more expensive. He may plough for a corn crop and to repay that he should have double the crop from the land, but I understand that in some cases he will not have half the crop that might be expected on good land in the low country.

32235. What is the expense of ploughing in the lowlands?—I say, a pound an acre. Perhaps I am putting a little too high.

32236. And what would be the expense of ploughing along the slope?—Double that, because they have to take the horse up the hill empty. The plough cannot turn and work again up the hill, and in the next place they cannot go straight up the hill with the empty plough; they have to go crosswise.

32237. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But can't they plough across the hill?—They could not even do that. The horse would not be able in many places to do that. And then, of course, you see the disadvantages of that, for the ridges must be formed in the falling direction of the ground in order to carry away the surface water.

32238. For drainage?—Yes; to keep the land dry it must be ploughed down hill, and another disadvantage is that every time you turn down the hill you are carrying soil from the higher to the lower part of the ground, and you are making a deposit there of the good soil and in a few years the soil has to be carried back again, and we often find it carried in baskets, and the manure has to be carried up in baskets; in some cases they have to ream the ground before they open the drains. And these are great disadvantages to the people. Again, the conditions under which the people live are not at all inviting. Their dwellings are little better than hovels, and the walls are unchapel and the roof often much too low, and the doors of the kitchen often are earthen and the same applies in a great many cases to the rooms. The office houses are, in the main, unsuitable for the healthy housing of cattle, and they are usually built so as to form a continuation of the dwellings. About all the buildings the one thing noticeable is the absence of lime.

32239. But you have a fine supply of lime in the county?—For any lime that is used the people of this district have to go to Cookestown, but there are lime quarries here that are not worked, and it is upwards of five to Cookestown and it takes practically two nights and a day to go to Cookestown and back, and then the horse travelling on these roads cannot bring a full load. I think the manure heap could, with advantage, be removed further from the dwellings than it usually is the case at present. On the whole, it is not surprising that the young men and women are ready to quit the country and go to America or Canada to push their fortunes. The people seem ready and willing to co-operate in any scheme undertaken for the betterment of their condition, and I think that if proof was required of their industry it is laid in the fact that they exist there at all, for none but a very industrious people would have reclaimed or would have attempted to reclaim these mountain sides. They could not live here unless they were an industrious people, and if something is not done and done soon for these people, they will solve the problem themselves by simply leaving the country altogether, by emigration. They do not ask for alms; they ask simply for the help that every citizen in the State is entitled to ask from the State, help to win for themselves and for their families a decent support. And they expect and hope that your Board will recommend the scheduling of this district and they expect to get some advantage therefrom. The rural population of Tyrone has decreased almost 50,000 within twenty years, between 1881 and 1901, and I should say that a large percentage of those

people have gone from the district in which you are receiving evidence here to-day, and of which you received evidence on Saturday at Cookestown. As to the improvements that could be made, in the first place I would suggest afforestation, because the district is very cold and there is very little shelter for cattle. There is a lot of the mountain land, too, that will never repay the labour that might be spent on it to make it into tillage land, and I think it could, with profit, be planted with trees suitable to the district and suitable to the soil, and this would have many advantages. It would change the climate to a considerable extent and afford shelter for cattle, especially in the winter time, and the trees would afterwards be a source of income to the people. And if there were some means of supplying these trees now they could be easily planted at a time when the farmers' sons are not particularly busy in their own holdings.

32240. Do you mean large tracts re-afforested or shelter plots?—Shelter plots of trees along the mountain sides. I would suggest that. From the 25th of December last winter till the 25th of March at no time had the snow completely disappeared from these hills. And, of course, also drainage is necessary. I think the drainage of the tillage land, surface drainage and what they call closed drains, made with stones, would be particularly useful; but the farmers could not afford to employ labour to make these unless they got some help in some way, and some encouragement, and, perhaps, some instruction also.

32241. Is there any main drainage required?—There would be main drainage required in some places.

32242. This river that you were talking of in the place, would that ever be made anything of?—I do not think it could be improved. Small portions of the holdings that lie along that river, these are the portions that would benefit by it mainly, but I do not think that in themselves they would repay the cost of banking it along. Besides the banks must be carried to a considerable height in order to prevent flooding. These mountain torrents might come down in twenty-four hours and flood the whole place. There are some accommodations roads that would be required in the district, and of course application has been made for more than six of these to the County Council, but they are limited in funds like every other body and again and again this application has been refused; and we would like to get some help to make that road. It is a road to the legs on the main road from Mountfild to Roscoe. The people have absolutely to carry the turf on their backs from half to three-quarters of a mile.

32243. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do they sell the turf at all in that district?—Just a little. The turf is brought in here to this village to be sold. Another thing relates to the improvement of roads in the district. They cannot afford to go outside their own district to get good corn and good potatoes, and I think it would be very useful if they could change the seed and it would be a great advantage to the farmers. And I know that those farmers who have been able to afford it have told me that when they want the best result from the seed they go outside the district altogether to get corn.

32244. If they had access to Omagh, or Strabane, or Cookestown?—Yes; or to the other parts of the country.

32245. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Where do your local seed merchants get seed from?—The local men here would get it from Strabane and Derry, and perhaps some from Belfast.

32246. You state that enlargement of holdings is impossible and migration undesirable?—There is no land available here for enlargement of holdings, and I think the average holding here would be about thirty acres, and half of that might be arable land, consisting of strips running up the mountain sides. In the upper portion of it some of it has been reclaimed, but has gone back again, and the lower portion is still in cultivation.

32247. So that enlargement of holdings would not improve the condition of the people?—Not very much.

32248. The only thing is improvement of the land that they have got already?—Of the land that they have got already.

32249. And migration is not desirable?—They do

May 27/1907.
Rev. Thomas J. Agnew.

May 21, 1907.
Rev. Thomas
J. Agnew.

not seem inclined for it. They would almost rather rise up and go away to another country altogether.

32340. You would not describe them as congested in this country?—Well, according to the accepted definition that you have received here I think they would come well under it.

32341. But with an average holding of about thirty acres you could hardly describe the district as congested although it is poor?—You make a difference between poverty and congestion. Well, we would have to agree on a definition of congestion first before I could answer.

32342. Mr. O'KELLY.—But there are many cases in which you might find an economic holding of twenty acres and an uneconomic holding of thirty acres. Would not valuation be the better test?—For acre?

32343. Yes; valuation of the holding?—I think the definition that was given was not meant to take the valuation of the holding.

This arises out of your answer to Mr. Kavanagh. I see there are over 84 per cent. of the holdings under 210 valuations in this county.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—The average holding is thirty acres.

32344. Mr. O'KELLY.—What would the arable land on the thirty acres be?—From ten to fifteen acres of arable land and the rest of it is rough mountain.

32345. Would that be ten to fifteen English acres?—English acres.

32346. Would you call that, plus the fifteen acres of mountain, an economic holding?—I would not under present conditions, nor do I think it could ever be made in itself capable of decently supporting a family. It would require to be subdivided in some way.

32347. Have the agricultural committee done anything in the way of encouraging the use of good seed or providing good seed?—I do not think they have done anything in the way of providing good seed.

32348. They have done nothing in your parish?—What they have done in the parish has been very little. They sent a class of cattle here that did not suit the place. They sent shorthorn bulls here and I have heard farmers say that they are absolutely unsuited to the soil and that they could not sell the young stock that came from them.

32349. Who advised the sending of these unsuitable animals?—I suppose the Department of Agriculture.

32350. Who are supposed to be experts at these matters?—Yes.

32351. Did the local committee have a voice in it, I wonder?—I do not think they had.

32352. Are these unsuitable animals still here?—No.

32353. They have been taken away?—They have been taken away. They went here for a couple of years and the man that had them then sold them. There is one at present in the district, a polled Angus, but it is not long enough in the district to form any opinion on.

32354. But outside that did the Department of Agriculture and the local committee give any assistance?—They did, with regard to cows, but I believe that that is a sad failure.

32355. How long has that experiment been proceeding?—Four or five years.

32356. Do you agree with the evidence of Mr. Foote, who said that after three years the cows went back to their former condition—that there was no improvement possible after three years?—I quite agree with that, and if any improvement was made it was not attributable, I think, to the Department at all.

32357. Do you see any beneficial results from their work?—I do not see any beneficial results, anything to justify the expenditure.

32358. Most Hon. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—You said the size of the holdings was about thirty acres?—Yes; it may be more or less.

32359. Half of the holding would be under tillage?—About that.

32360. Of those fifteen acres would a considerable proportion be reclaimed land?—Practically it would be all reclaimed land.

32361. Perhaps you know the average rent of those holdings?—I could not tell you the average rent now.

32362. It would not be more than 57 or 58?—Oh, it would not be that.

32363. Now, you do not look to migration as a remedy for the condition of things you have described?—I do not.

32364. Then, you have in your mind that by some class of ameliorative treatment the people might be enabled to live where they are?—Yes; first on their own land, and secondly by subsidizing them.

32365. I want to get from you what you previously said to convey by "subsidizing"—I mean first, home industries of some kind, such as has been recommended and are practised in congested districts. And then another thing also would be perhaps public work of some kind, such as the woollen industry. And I understand that brick fields could be established here with advantage and with profit.

32366. You think that there are industries that might be developed?—Yes.

32367. That there is some chance for them?—Yes, 32368. And you consider that a good deal could be done to improve the cultivation of the soil?—Yes, and especially by drainage and by proper treatment with lime.

32369. And there is no lime available now?—No lime practically available.

32370. You have told us that lime is not within reach for the proper liming of the houses?—Yes, and especially for the farms. And the lime must go on warm, and it cannot be got in the early springtime.

32371. You used the expression in your evidence—I think it was in answer to the Chairman, Mr. Kavanagh—that the houses were remarkably by their want of sufficient liming?—Yes, my lord; I said that.

32372. Is not it a matter of common knowledge that from the sanitary point of view there is nothing more necessary than a sufficient quantity of lime for a building?—That is why I introduced it, my lord.

32373. And you consider that the absence of lime is a distinct evidence of the need of special treatment?—I consider so, my lord.

Mr. PATRICK LYONS examined.

Mr. Patrick
Lyons.

32374. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You are from Derry?—Yes. I want to bring under your notice the condition of Ballymillins and Banagher.

32375. What county is that?—Londonerry.

32376. You are a County Councillor for Londonerry?—Yes.

32377. And you represent three two districts?—These are portions of my county district. With regard to the townlands in the Banagher Division, the townland of Altavine Lower has an acreage of 140s. 6r. 3p., with a population of 32, and valuation, 279. Altavine Upper has acreage, 325s. 8r. 3p., population, 93, and valuation, 244. Carnahone has an acreage of 300s. 3r. 0p., population, 75, and valuation, 214 5s. Carnahone has acreage, 690s. 0r. 3p., population, 272, and valuation, 225 10s. Down has acreage, 2,131s. 2r. 20p., population 232, and valuation, 2215 15s. Gortareagh has acreage, 305s. 0r. 11p., population, 115, and valuation, 2126 15s. Killeen has acreage, 278s. 0r. 31p. (I

have not got the population or valuation because there is a demerit connected with that which would make a reduction on the figures). Kilget has an acreage of 1,020s. 1r. 37p., population, 173, and valuation, 2336 4s. Lear has an acreage of 2,022s. 8r. 7p., population, 156, and valuation, 2133 15s. But perhaps you do not want those figures.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—We have most of them in the book before us.

32378. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—You have not the valuation per head of the population of the electoral division?—I have not, my lord.

32379. Then proceed as you are doing?—The next is Trough, with an acreage of 2,522s. 5r. 22p., population 122, and valuation 2190 5s. And Treigher has an acreage of 413s. 8r. 25p., a population of 274, and a valuation 2277 15s.

32380. Would you tell us where, precisely from where the Commission is holding that session, does that district lie?—It lies exactly between Londonderry and Banagher.

derry and the village of Park. The village of Park of course is not much known.

38293. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What is the direction from this place; how far is it from here?—Fourteen miles. A gentleman who was giving evidence here to-day is referred to the Sewall mountains, and we are just on the other side of the Sewall mountains.

38294. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The Sewall mountains are in Tyrone?—They divide Tyrone and Derry.

38295. And you are on the other side?—We are on the other side—the Derry side.

38296. And you consider that the conditions are not very different?—They are very similar in the two places.

38297. Would that district of yours be near any station on the line from Strabane to Derry?—No; certainly not. The nearest railway communication that we have is the city of Derry, and that is fifteen miles from us. Some time ago it was suggested that a line of railway should be made from Londonderry through our district. It was passed through Parliament and called the Derry City and County Railway.

38298. And what was the other terminus, Derry being one?—Draperstown. It joined the connection now with Belfast.

38299. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But that fell through?—That fell through. What I would like to draw special attention to is the desirability of having a line of railway made between Londonderry and the village of Park, which would open up a most important district, and touch the districts which I believe come under the congested district rule. And at the same time it would bring us into touch with a portion of Tyrone.

38300. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The Mount Hamilton division would be near it?—No, Glenties. And you have had some witnesses from that division here to-day. This Glenties division was supplied formerly from Londonderry through our village, but some ten or twelve years ago there was a railway connection made between Draperstown and, I think, Magherafelt, and an extension of the Belfast line made there, and in consequence of that some of the traffic was diverted from the City of Londonderry; but if we had a line of railway from Derry to Park we would undoubtedly get back the entire traffic of that locality, which would be very important.

38301. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But do you think such a railway would pay?—There is not the slightest doubt about it. It is generally admitted, I believe, that there is no road in the Province of Ulster that there is so much traffic on without a railway as there is between the City of Derry through Glenties to the village of Park.

38302. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would the proposed railway go through Glenties?—Yes.

Mr. PETER McCULLIGH (of Anghirama) examined.

38303. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What is your address, Mr. McCulligh?—Anghirama.

38304. What district do you come from?—From Fiumbridge County District, from the electoral division of Glenties, Mount Hamilton, and Glencon.

38305. We have already had evidence from those districts?—Yes, general evidence, from Mr. Clarke.

38306. And what do you want to bring before the notice of the Commission?—It is necessary for me to give the area and population, as Mr. Clarke has already done so.

38307. He has already done so?—But I want to point out that the percentage of the household inhabitants in Glenties under £10 valuation is 63 per cent.

38308. Mr. O'KEEFE.—What union is that in?—In Strabane Union, Glenties. 63 per cent. of them are under £10 valuation; and in Glencon seventy-two, and in Mount Hamilton, eighty-two. Mr. Clarke has described the situation of those divisions, but in relation to some of the divisions he did not explain how the land is so hilly that you cannot use a cart on any farm. The land is so steep and hilly that the manure has to be carried up in baskets tied on the horses' backs. When going up the hill we have to carry it up on the horses' backs, and when going

38299. Would the district for which you speak be served by the proposed line between Dromana and Cookstown?—No, it would not; certainly not.

38300. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You are aware that there is a Victoria Commission sitting on the question of railways in Ireland?—Yes, I am aware of it.

38301. Did you give evidence?—No, I was deputed to give evidence by our Council, but I was unable to attend.

38302. Was the subject of this railway put before them?—Yes, I think it was, by Dr. Todd, of Derry.

38303. Is there anything further?—Nothing further in this direction, but with regard to the employment of boys. The girls of the district have got employment in making underclothing, but the boys usually go to Scotland in the spring of the year and remain over there during the whole of the summer and part of the winter months, and I would like to see some local industry established that would keep them at home. Some sort of cottage industry would be the most practical.

38304. Mr. O'KEEFE.—For boys?—For boys.

38305. What industry would you be prepared to suggest?—I would not be prepared to suggest anything. I do not know.

38306. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—At one time there was a good deal of weaving done in the cottages of Ulster?—Yes.

38307. And that was an industry that in those days employed men?—Yes, certainly.

38308. And the Commission has had evidence that this weaving is still continued in the Newtownards district?—I believe so, my lord.

38309. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is there anything further?—There is nothing further.

38310. Mr. O'KEEFE.—What union do you come from?—The Londonderry Union.

38311. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The fact that young men go to Scotland for employment we might take as a proof that the district is comparatively poor?—Undoubtedly.

38312. Do they go from nearly all the families?—From nearly all the families, and I think it is a very demoralising practice.

38313. Does your district extend as far into the county as Feeny?—Feeny is my district.

38314. Then, it is contiguous to those poor districts of the County Tyrone that have been specially mentioned to us?—Yes, my lord. I might draw under your notice the fact that Griffith's valuation is about 25 per cent higher in Ulster—in our district and Ulster generally—than it is in the rest of Ireland.

38315. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Because it came a number of years later than in the south?—Yes.

38316. And they were more prosperous in the north when the valuation was made than they were in the south when it was commenced?—Yes, I think that is about all.

down the hill we have to use a slide cart; and the same way in taking home the crops.

38303. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Do the people speak Irish usually?—Yes. And in half of the Mount Hamilton division they cannot keep a horse, and in bad springs, like this, when they cannot get the use of a horse, they have to carry the manure on their backs, and sometimes the ground is quite soft.

38304. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is that because they are too poor to keep a horse, or on account of the nature of the soil?—They could not keep a horse. They are too poor; and it is in from the nature of the soil too. In Mount Hamilton there are seventy-nine landholders and twenty-five of them have no horse.

38305. You cannot work a horse on the hill side?—You cannot feed them summer and winter.

38306. But even, I suppose, if you could feed them, you could not work a horse on the hill side?—Generally they could, but generally in ploughing the land you must plough the most of it down hill. People cannot plough up.

38307. Or across?—If you ploughed it across you would have to plough it driving the soil down the hill, and it would all be down in a short time.

38308. I understand that that takes place, even at present?—They would rather plough down than plough it across and throw the soil down.

May 22, 1907.

Mr. Peter
McCullagh.

33328. But I understand that even that way the soil eventually gets down to the bottom?—To the one side.

33330. Mr. O'Kearney.—But the system of ploughing it down settles the drainage, and ploughing it across would impede it?—It would.

33331. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—But some witnesses gave us evidence a few days ago that they were in the habit of ploughing in across in their district?—They might, but it is not easily done.

33332. Evidently, but in working you could plough both ways?—If it was on a steep mountain you could not plough it.

In any case you could only plough one way on a steep hill.

33334. Mr. KAVANAGH.—How many acres does a £10 valuation represent as a rule in your district, taking an average case?—About 100 acres. It is partly mountain.

33335. A holding of £20 valuation. How many acres do you say does that represent on the average?—Taking mountains, arable, and all it might represent 180. It might represent 15 acres of arable or partly arable.

33336. What is the average of the number of acres in a holding in your part. How much have you yourself?—I have 130.

33337. Mr. O'Kearney.—How much of that is arable?—Ten acres.

33338. What is your valuation?—£10 10s.

33339. Are you aware that there is mountain land in many parts of the country that is valued for £1, Mr. and Mr. an acre?—Yes.

33340. Is the average of Erris the average is 4d. an acre for land of the same class. And would you suggest that it is in the arable portion that you are valued?—Yes. Most of it is not arable, and it is reclaimed within the last sixty years, and most of our mountain grazing is common grazing, and it is not so good as if a man had it by himself. We have to send away the sheep in the winter time, and pay 2s. a head for them for the wintering.

33341. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Could not you keep them on the mountain that you have in common?—They would not live on it.

33342. How far have you to send them?—Ten miles away sometimes.

33343. Mr. O'Kearney.—They would have no shelter and have to come down in the winter time?—Yes.

33344. Mr. KAVANAGH.—It is only the summer grazing that you have on the mountain?—Yes, that is all. We keep some, but we cannot keep any young ones; no lambs.

33345. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would that be the Sawell Mountains?—Yes, my lord.

33346. And do you know anything of the country on the other side, of which Mr. Lynch spoke?—I do, well. It comes to the top of the Sawell Mountains.

33347. Is that also a poor district?—Yes; congested, I believe.

33348. Situated in the County Londonderry?—Yes; we are quite close to each other.

33349. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have you any other point?—Only with regard to roads. We have very bad roads up there. There are four townlands that have no road at all and the people have no right of way to the road, and they live half a mile away and have no foot-bridge, and when they have anything to bring to the market they must carry it on their back over some neighbour's land, if he permits them, and if they are taking anything from the market it is the same; they must carry it on their back, and sometimes they must make three or four drives of it and carry it across the rough mountain stream where there is no foot-bridge.

33350. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—How many families are there in that district situated as you describe?—Fourteen.

33351. With no road?—No road, nor no right of way; and they have to cross a rough mountain stream to get to the road, and no foot-bridge even.

33352. Mr. KAVANAGH.—And you say you have 180 acres yourself?—Yes.

33353. How much of that have you got in tillage?—About ten acres, and they are not very good land. One must dig it.

33354. What have you down mostly?—Oats and potatoes.

33355. And any flax in this country?—No, it would not grow there.

33356. And I suppose the rest is sheep grazing?—Yes.

33357. Wool is lately higher?—Well, it is very late. Within the last year it has been middling, but for fifteen years before they did not pay. You would sell a sheep and lamb for 12s.

33358. They are doing very well down with us in the South.

33359. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You mean that for the last year or two they have been paying?—Yes.

33360. The prices went up?—The prices went up. 33361. What do you do with the wool?—We sell it to a middleman. There were some industries spoken of here. We have plenty of wool, and mostly all the women and girls can spin, and I think it would be a good thing if we got a little assistance from the Congested Districts Board to supply them with the necessary machinery.

33362. Has there been anything done in the way of bringing new cottage industries into the district?—No, my lord.

33363. Are there weavers still remaining there who could weave well?—There are, and good spinners and carders, too.

33364. Do you think anyone who could instruct in working the modern loom would be useful in the locality?—Yes, they would.

33365. From what you say of the district I suppose we may take it that not many about you have as comfortable a holding as you yourself have?—Well, some have better, some have worse.

33366. There is a road into your locality?—Well, we have one road, and no matter where we go we must go to that road, and it is not a very good one. It is very hilly.

33367. How do you work your land? Is it by horse power?—Well, I have no horse. I do not think it is economic to keep a horse.

33368. Is your land clay soil or bog soil?—It is bog. There is no alluvial soil in it, and any amount of rock.

33369. And what sort of potatoes have you on your farm?—Well, we never have good potatoes, because they are too late in planting, and then we have the blight very early, and they are very soft.

33370. Spraying has not been done in the district?—Well, they spray, but somehow the game is not worth the candle, I think.

33371. Mr. O'Kearney.—Spraying?—Yes. I do not think it did any good.

33372. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Perhaps in a year like last year it would be difficult to find a sufficient number of dry days?—We are afraid of that. We are afraid the rain will come and wash the whole soil off them.

33373. If the weather were favourable for spraying and you sprayed twice or three times would you admit that a good effect might be produced?—Well, I think so. But the class of potatoes we have are Irish Whites, and I think they do just when the time comes.

33374. Has the Champion not fought its way to your locality?—Oh, yes, but it did not and has become extinct.

33375. The Irish Whites reign supreme?—Yes.

33376. Mr. KAVANAGH.—And you are no believer in spraying?—From my experience I do not believe in it.

33377. Are you going to spray this year?—I don't know. If I thought it would succeed only the same as last year I would not.

33378. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have you drained your land?—Yes.

33379. And is there lime in your locality?—There is no lime nearer than within ten or twelve miles of it.

33380. That is a great drawback in reclamation, is it not?—Yes.

33381. Mr. O'Kearney.—About the diet of the people—that is interesting?—Well, they live on the crops as long as those hold out, but all the crops they can raise would not do for three months.

33382. What is the principal diet of the people?—They buy dairy and Indian meal and potatoes.

33383. And tea?—Tea. And some, I suppose, use a little bacon when they are able to buy it.

33384. Is the diet poorer in your part of the country than other parts of Tyrone, or would it be generally the same all over amongst the small farmers?—Some of them could not afford to get a middling good diet.

33385. Now about the cost of living compared with thirty or forty years ago. I see you have that laid down in your memorandum. What have you to say on that subject?—The cost of living?

38396. Yes?—I say that the population thirty or forty years ago worked more with the spade. They did more spade labour, and they had more crops. They could make as much oatmeal as would last them for a year.

38397. Mr. KAVANAGH.—They have to buy more now!—They have to buy more now.

A Member of the audience.—There are two Mr. P. McCallaghs who are giving evidence. I think that refers to the other man.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVILL.—We must not allow the Commission to disturb your identity, Mr. McCallagh. Continue your evidence.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—Just go on in your own words.

Mr. O'KEEFE.—I won't press you on that subject.

38398. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You were describing the various electoral divisions, and I think you have been through the most of them. Is there anything further that you would like to mention to us now?—That is all, unless some industries.

38399. And the spreading of lime quarries. I understand you to recommend that?—Yes.

38400. You require lime?—Yes, and there are no means of getting it.

Mr. PETER MCCALLAGH (of Artaghena) examined.

38401. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Where do you live?—Artaghena. I represent the parish of Lower Badoeny. The soil is difficult to labour, and the holdings in general are narrow strips of land running up to the top of the mountain, a good deal of which is tillage. The soil in general is rocky, wet, and shallow, and would require to be better drained and fenced. Corn does not ripen in a great part of the district. The farmers have to buy corn often at sometimes at 10 per cent. over market price, as they have no money in that season of the year. A farm on the average is about thirty acres, and I think that about one-third of that is tillage or was tillage, and one-third of it has gone back to its original state, and it is worse now than it was before.

38402. You consider it is actually worse than before it was reclaimed?—I do, and it is difficult to bring it back again. The elevation is from 400 to 600 feet, and the holdings along the rivers, as Father Agnew said—and I corroborate his evidence in that—are liable to be flooded.

38403. In your opinion is there any remedy for the flooding?—As seemed to think not?—I think not; because I was over a good many of the places, and they have made embankments, but they have all been torn away. I see no good in spending money in making banks to confine the river. Maybe in the next flood they would be washed away altogether. I think the great necessity is for lime, and I think the district I represent is the worst of for lime, and there is no other part that is worse off. It is about eighteen miles from Cuckstown, and that is all the place you have to purchase lime, and many of the people do not keep a horse, but if there was a light railway one or two could join in a wagon. Most of the houses are built of clay mortar and stone. They have no lime whatsoever.

38404. Lime was at one time greatly used in this country?—Yes; but since the famine when young folk came up to about twenty years of age they emigrate. And the majority of the farmers only keep one horse, and they have to join with others in ploughing, and they cannot begin their ploughing till the middle of March and at the stormy season. Then it leaves the crops very late in putting in. This year there was a great deal of potatoes being put in on the 20th of May, some of the corn being sown up to the 1st of May. I consider that if there was a horse industry established it would be a great aid to the district. The girls could stay at home and help them to dress, and it would be a great inducement to them to stop at home, and it would be almost as useful to the boys. To my own knowledge I know that a great deal of the farmers would have to give up their farms only for getting money from America to support the old people and some of them at home and pay the rent.

38405. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donovill.—Did many go this year to America?—Yes, my lord.

38406. Boys and girls?—Boys and girls. There is no industry at all in the place. There was merely sewing in the village of Gortin here, and that might

38393. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Just one word. What is your district electoral division?—Mount Headham.

38394. What is your union?—Strabane Union. We live about 1,100 feet above sea level.

38395. You said no flax was grown in Strabane?—No, not in Mount Headham. There might be some in the country.

38396. Some in the union, I suppose?—Yes.

38397. What is your opinion of the usefulness of the agricultural and technical scheme in this country, for which you pay a rate?—Well, we have the pleasure of paying the rate.

38398. Do you regard it as a pleasure. But that is the only satisfaction you can get out of it?—That is all. There never was a man belonging to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction who stood within three miles of where I live.

38399. Did you ever hear any of their lectures?—No, never; they never were near or near us.

38400. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Perhaps they think they can't teach you anything?—They don't try. But they can teach us to pay.

38407. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Do you think that would keep them at home?—I think they would stop at home, but in the winter season the girls do not like to be stopping and doing nothing, and having nothing for clothing or anything, and I think it would ruin the families. The boys go to England, some of them, and the most of them to America.

38408. And your second point is that the farms are generally unproductive?—Yes; I have no doubt at all about that, because in the townland I live in myself we scarcely can get a stone of oats sold if we take it to the market. The oats do not ripen. The place has a northern aspect. And the farms are stony.

38409. Then there is a difficulty about the transit of produce?—Yes.

38410. And the diet of the people?—Well, they generally have bread and tea in the morning without any butter, unless they have some person added. They may get some street-bread and milk between that and night time. They may get an egg or so for dinner along with bread, and some American bacon on some occasions, and tea at four o'clock and bread again.

38411. Mr. O'KEEFE.—And then about 6 or 8?—Bread and milk.

38412. That is four meals a day?—Yes.

38413. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Has it improved in the last few years or gone back?—Gone back.

38414. Then as regards the cost of living as compared with thirty or forty years ago. What can you say on that point?—The cost of living is more expensive now because they did not use the thirty or forty years ago to a great extent. And then it takes away the money; and there was more produce, and they did use what they raised upon the farms themselves to a great extent, but you would not get a boy now to stop with you unless you would give him better feeding than you would take yourself.

38415. Have the wages of the labourer increased in the locality?—They have, to my own knowledge, one-half.

38416. What are the average wages of the labourer, can you tell me?—£10 10s. for a boy for the six months.

38417. He is bound?—He is bound.

38418. And would that include three meals a day?—It would include what I described.

38419. Four?—Yes.

38420. And what was it a few years ago—you say it has increased?—About twenty years ago it was about £4 and 2s. But I want to say that as persons with the class of land that I am describing can hire a man at all and pay for their labour. It would not pay at all unless the family did it themselves.

38421. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donovill.—Before you go on from that, you stated in answer to the Chairman that the cost of living had gone up very considerably?—I did.

38422. Do you think has the food of the people improved as the cost went up?—Well, I could not say that, my lord, but that was the custom of the place

May 27, 1907.
Mr. Peter
McCallagh

May 21, 1903. It is more expensive now. It takes away the money.

Mr. Peter McCullagh.

33423. Do you not think that forty years ago the food of the people was as substantial as it is now?—I do.

33424. It was as good for a healthy farmer?—I think it was.

33425. And perhaps it was better?—Otherwise it was good.

33426. You are customarily taken and it is expensive?—Yes.

33427. And is not it open to doubt whether it is adding to the stamina of the people?—Yes. And the cost of production per statute acre would be about 45 s. for oats and the average of value would not go to 45 by any means or sale.

33428. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The cost of production is very much more?—Yes; you cannot employ labour at all to put in a crop. Any person that have not labour of their own have to let the farms go derelict or to grazing purposes. They could not make anything of it at all with hired labour.

33429. What does the labourer do in the other part of the year when he is not employed?—He gets plenty of employment, because the boys are gone away, and where there are large farms where they must get in a helper, he can get plenty of employment at that, and that is what has raised the wages generally and plunging is not encouraged.

33430. He can get employment all the year round?—Yes.

33431. As a rule the farmer only engages him for six months?—Oh, yes; six months is the term when you have him for four or five years.

33432. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You say it costs more to produce an acre of oats than the oats will yield when produced?—Yes; I have no doubt at all about it if you pay out for all the work done.

33433. Mr. KAVANAGH.—For hired labour?—Yes; hired labour.

33434. These drainage and fencing are required?—Yes; field drains, stone drains—that is the class of drains; and as a general thing mountain districts are very badly fenced. People have not the means to buy even quick fences to quick them and they have only stone fences and they come down in a short time.

33435. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Have you many quick fences in this part of the country?—Of course you get a few. A few miles out from Gortin along the river there is very little fencing but quick fences, but about Gortin for miles they turn greatly to wire fences. But it is not substantial.

33436. There is no shelter in them?—No. Planting would be very useful for shelter.

33437. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The necessity for spraying in the proper time and in the proper way—give us

your opinion on that?—By experience I knew that it would be very useful and beneficial if it were done properly and in time, but if it is not done in time it is of no use, and members of the farmers are not well supplied with sprayers and have not the means to buy one, and I think they ought to be assisted to get sprayers and to be taught the proper way to spray.

33438. Have you any hose sprayers in this country?—No, no.

33439. All knapsack?—All knapsack.

33440. I hear a great many complaints about the failure of the spraying last year. Was that the failure of the spraying or the failure of the sprayer?—Well, there is a class of potatoes called Irish Whites and they do not hold the spray. They are fine in the foliage and if they get the rain it is washed off. Champions for a few years did well, but after that they were a total failure, and there were other sorts that did not make so much headway through the mountains as the Irish Whites, but there is a potato that would give very fair results unless a year like last year and they are Up-to-dates and Sentons. They hold the spray, and these Irish Whites fall down and do not hold the spray at all.

33441. There was a good deal of blight last year, I understand?—The Champions did not come to maturity at all. They were soft and small, and potatoes put in in the middle of May were killed by blight by the 1st of August.

33442. But if it is done in the proper time and in the proper way you are in favour of spraying?—I am, certainly. I had experience of it.

33443. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Last year was a wet year?—A wet year, and when they could not do it in the dry weather it was a total failure.

33444. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Then as to home industries, would you recommend the establishment of home industries for girls—lace-making, crochet and knitting?—Knitting, and I would recommend the woollen industry too. There is a great deal of wool in the adjoining parish and in our parish too in the mountains. They sell their wool to millmen here in the town, and if they made their own cloth instead of sending it to factories, to Scotland and so forth, I think that money might be kept in our own place if there were an industry established and assisted.

33445. Was there any crochet work or lace work in this county at any time?—No; I do not think there was.

33446. Or machine-knitting?—No; but there were lace factories and the making of woollen dresses—what were called buck mills. The wool and the cloth was prepared at home by hand and sent to the mills, and it was then dressed up, but that industry died out.

Mr. P. G. DALLINGER examined.

Mr. P. G. Dallinger.

33447. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT (to the Clerk).—You are the Secretary of the County Council of Tyrone, and you represent the Committee of Agriculture?—I do, sir.

33448. You are not a farmer?—No, I am not. As Secretary of the County Committee I am requested in the letter of the Committee to state what work had been done in the poorer districts.

33449. What work had been done by the County Committee?—Yes.

33450. When you speak of the work of the County Committee, how much does that cover?—It covers the whole of the County Tyrone. It applies to the whole County of Tyrone, and I think I shall be able to explain how it applies in my evidence.

33451. If you please?—I do not know whether it would be in order to do so, but if so I should like to refer to a statement of the first witness this morning. Would it be in order?

33452. Within certain limits we shall be glad to hear you?—A statement was made by the first witness. He referred to Bion Mills and to the mills there, and to the good that they had done, employing 1,300 hands, and he was asked then whether he thought that the county schemes had done any good, and he said no. Did he believe in demonstration plots?—Yes. Were there any in his district?—Yes. And now I wish

to say our most expensive demonstration plot in Tyrone was put down last year at Bion Mills by the Department.

33453. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Probably what he put to the Commission was that in the poorer districts of the county these demonstration plots had not been put down?—The only point I desire to make is that in the district which he represented one of the most important and expensive experiments was put down.

33454. You will come to that in your evidence?—Well, I do not refer to that directly, but I refer to experiments generally.

33455. With reference to the demonstration plot I may ask you whether it was on poor land or on rich land?—The object of that plot was to determine certain facts which you may say were not judiciously regarded to the cultivation of flax, and there were therefore a series of plots put down. One object was to prove whether the application of limbit or another form of potash was more satisfactory, and I understand that that centre was selected because Bion Mills is the natural point of connection between the farmer who grows the flax on his farm and the manufacturer who handles it, and that that would be a suitable centre for experiments.

38456. That is quite interesting. It was an experimental plot to make special tests with reference to flax cultivation?—It was, my lord.

38457. Probably that the witness referred to was plots for teaching the small farmer the cultivation of the class of crops he generally grows upon his holding?—Well, of course, a good many of the small farmers do grow small quantities of flax, from half an acre up.

38458. If they grow more it would be so much the better?—It would. My evidence concerns the working of the County Schemes in Tyrone with special reference to the poorer districts. Before I actually deal with this subject perhaps you will permit me to point out some of the difficulties which have presented themselves in dealing with the less progressive districts in the county. When the County Council decided to raise a rate for the purposes of Agriculture and Technical Instruction the administration of that rate was handed over to the County Committee of Agriculture, and this Committee is guided in regard to the administration of the fund by the Department. The unit of rating is a Rural District, which may contain both large tracts of extremely good land and also large tracts of very poor land. It may happen, in actual experience it does happen, that a tract of nearly 10,000 acres in the Rural District will not produce in rate plus the Department's grant as against that amount of rate, sufficient money to grant even a penny to a half. I have in my mind at present a tract of country which is by no means the worst in the county, which contains nearly 10,000 acres and produces a little over £5 as a contribution to the operations of the schemes on the present basis of a rate of one penny in the pound, while a township of 1,235 acres produces only 1s. 11d. in rate, or in other words 1,235 acres contribute 4s. 4d. to the joint fund.

38459. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I do not quite follow that?—You see, the Department give five-ninths; and 1s. 11d., plus the five-ninths, would be 4s. 4d.

38460. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What rate did you levy?—A penny in the pound. The unit of rating being the rural district, the advantage to be derived from the expenditure of the joint fund, i.e., the total amount raised in rate, plus the Department's contribution as against that amount, must be enjoyed by all who reside in the contributing area, the committee cannot at present work schemes save in a very small way, and in exceptional circumstances, that apply only to small or limited areas, and, therefore, the schemes at work are county schemes; they apply to the whole county, not to special areas; and they have been adopted with a view to improve the county as a whole, bearing out of consideration generally any extreme cases.

38461. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When you say the scheme applies to the county as a whole you mean that you do not apply particular expenditure concentrated on the small districts?—No, sir.

38462. It is something that applies to the whole surface of the county?—Yes, sir. There has been a constant desire on the part of the committee to meet the special requirements of the less favoured areas, and I shall endeavour to place before you evidence to show the actual results obtained; but the committee, while receiving sympathetic assistance from the Department in many special cases, has not been able to provide for the operation of schemes specially adapted to the peculiar needs of limited districts owing to lack of funds. Speaking generally, to make a scheme successful in such a district requires considerable organisation, not perhaps organisation of a different kind to that which is usually required, but if I may be allowed to use the phrase "intensive" organisation is required which is more costly and involves a larger staff of instructors. The poorer districts in a county are to the Committee much what the backward boys in a form are to the teacher—they require special attention, the monopoly of a considerable amount of time—and also—but here the metaphor breaks down—they labour under the disadvantages of paying considerably lower fees. The really important part of the matter is that the contributing power of these poor areas should in some way be supplemented, so that the committee might be enabled to give them special aid through the machinery which they have at work at present.

38463. You do not mean supplemented by the general county rate, but from separate external sources?—Quite so, sir.

38464. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Perhaps it is only in a certain sense that these backward districts are behind. Do you not think that you would have for any organisation purpose as good talent in the poorer districts as in the best districts?—I think they would yield to special organisation. I think they would reply to organisation immediately.

38465. But they require a bigger subvention to enable them to take advantage of progressive measures?—Yes. Perhaps I may be allowed to add a word of explanation as to the necessity for that additional organisation. I used the word "intensive" there, I hope correctly, in the sense that it is not only necessary to put a scheme in operation, but that it is necessary to organise interest in the scheme which is being put in operation, and that applies peculiarly to the poorer districts.

38466. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Should you not think first of the public?—Yes. As it is, the poorer districts in Tyrone have, to a large extent, obtained under the county schemes more than that share of benefit which their rate-contributing power would entitle them to. This explanation of some of the difficulties in the way of dealing with areas similar to those known in the West as "congested" is offered not as an apology for neglect of their interests on the part of the committee, for in view of the resources available they have received more than their share of advantage, but rather in order that the difficulties of dealing with poor districts may be fully appreciated, and that the amount of work done may be regarded in relation to the necessary limitations under which it is accomplished. The schemes in operation in Tyrone are set forth in full, together with the expenditure under such schemes, in the report of the committee for 1905-6, page 85. I propose, with the aid of a map, in which the poorer districts of the county are roughly indicated, to show how far these districts have benefited under the county schemes.

38467. How do you indicate them?—By red ink. Roughly, this represents the county, with which you are, more or less, dealing to-day.

38468. And where you put red crosses, that, of course, is the poorer districts?—No. The red crosses indicate lecture centres in the poorer districts.

38469. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Were you present to-day when another witness said that under the county scheme comparatively little had been done for the poorer districts?—I was, my lord. My remarks will apply chiefly to the work done during the past two years, but I can give particulars of the work done prior to that date if required. I propose, first, to refer to the scheme of itinerant instruction in agriculture. Under this scheme centres are selected at which the instructor delivers a course of four lectures. The centre selected is generally a National school. I have indicated the centres at which courses of lectures were delivered in the poorer districts by an "X" on the map. These lectures were well attended. At many centres the audience numbered over 200. Farms in the neighbourhood of the centres were visited by the lecturer, and advice was given to farmers on their own land. During the course the instructor also selected plots on different farms for experimental and demonstration purposes. The committee supplied manures and seeds for these plots, and also provided several farmers in the locality of each lecture centre with potato-sprouting boxes in order to demonstrate the value and economy of sprouting seed. Later on the instructor paid periodic visits to the plots in order to give assistance and advice as to the methods of cultivation to be pursued. In this way a considerable amount of interest was aroused among farmers in the neighbourhood in which the experiments were carried out. In these districts several lectures on Veterinary Hygiene were delivered by a lecturer provided by the Department. The centres are marked on the map by the letter V. The interest aroused by these lectures was unusually great, and audiences of nearly 300 attended. The prevention of disease in farm animals and their maintenance in health is a subject which appeals to all agriculturists, but in districts like these, where it is very difficult to obtain skilled advice without sending long distances, this subject was particularly useful and welcome.

38470. What was the result of this demonstration plot?—The results are set forth in the report; not fully in all instances. We do not give the details of every demonstration plot, but there are instances given

May 27, 1907.

Mr P. G. Dalrymple.

May 27, 1907.

Mr. P. G.
Dallaghan.

here of several. There is one on the borders of this district. It is described on page 9 of our report.

38471. What electoral division is it?—I am sorry to say I am not well up in the electoral divisions; but it borders on this district, not very far from Greenacres.

38472. Just tell me what the results have been?—Well, the variety of potatoes sown was Up-to-Date. The soil was heavy clay. The sown seed produced 10 tons 16 cwt., of which 6 cwt. were small and were very diseased. The unsown produced 8 tons 13 cwt., of which the small were 6 cwt. and the diseased none. The difference in yield between the two, that is between the sown and unsown seed, is represented by 8 tons 3 cwt.

38473. May I ask on what class of farm was the plot?—It is a poorish farm. It is not a very poor farm, but it is actually the farm of one of the students who attended our agricultural class.

38474. That was an interesting experiment on heavy, clay soil, but on Saturday evening it struck me that the soil was in the main boggy soil and not heavy clay?—That is quite true, my lord, of the district generally; but in Tyrone the varieties of soil which occur in a limited area is very curious.

38475. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The figures refer to the acre?—Per acre.

38476. What size is the plot?—We sometimes carry out the experiments on a quarter-acre plot and we sometimes select the eighth of an acre.

38477. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Was there any idea of selecting a plot that should represent the average soil in the district?—Well, I think if I may be allowed, my lord, I would answer the question in another way by saying that you will find on one place sure to represent the average soil of the district, but that the plots selected, as you see by the test there, represent most of the classes of soil.

38478. That was the intention, but in Greenacres apparently it was a heavy clay?—This place that I refer to is not actually in Greenacres.

38479. Would not it be an interesting thing to have in that area something bigger than a plot, a small farm of the average variety of soil in the district cultivated in a model way?—It would be most interesting. The scheme of instruction in Horticulture and Bee-keeping aims particularly at benefiting the occupiers of small holdings, and as the land in Tyrone is of a considerable elevation, has a large average rainfall and a low average temperature, while in many parts the soil is not particularly well suited to the needs of a cottage garden there was, and still is, much need for encouragement in connection with the growth of vegetables and fruit, bush fruit especially, as, generally speaking, this can be grown most successfully in the county. The vegetables in common use are confined to potatoes and cabbages, and practically no other vegetable is used for food in the poorer districts. It has been the aim of the committee by means of this scheme to encourage the culture of fruit and vegetables for market purposes, where the soil, situation and condition of the occupier made it seem feasible, and for home consumption in the case of cottagers and labourers and small farmers.

38480. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—How long has the scheme been working for the encouragement of fruit and vegetables?—Just three years.

38481. Has it been found in fact that there is a market for them?—There is a very large market for apples.

38482. But you were speaking of bush fruit?—An acre of black currants is about the most profitable thing a man can grow.

38483. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have you tried them on boggy soil?—Oh, yes, my lord.

38484. Where has the experiment been made on boggy soil?—There have been experiments carried on on boggy soil in Clough district. There is one place near Berragh where you would think nothing could grow, where practically the roots of the black currant trees are almost in water you would think, but, nevertheless, most excellent crops of black currants are obtained there and the occupier has been able to sell them profitably every year so far as we have had him under observation.

38485. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are they sold for preserves?—Sold for preserves to a large extent, and I believe there is a demand now—I speak under correction—medicinally for black currants.

The student instructor has, for three years, delivered courses of lectures in horticulture and bee-keeping, and as you will see by the number of points marked on the map with an H in black ink, a great many centres have been selected in the poorer districts for these lectures. In addition to the lectures practical demonstrations in planting, pruning, spraying, and the general preparation of the garden for cropping have been carried out at various places in these districts. The committee has established six horticultural demonstration plots, mostly in the vicinity of National Schools, for the purpose of encouraging improvement in the upkeep of gardens, and these are treated in the same way as the agricultural demonstration plots, that is, a certain supply of seed, manure, and some fruit trees are given to the owner on condition that he shall supply the necessary labour. As a result of the work done in connection with this scheme a large number of fruit trees have been planted in the county, and the culture of vegetables has increased, while even the conservative attitude which most of the people retain towards the use of new articles of food is beginning to break down, and in many cases the "new" vegetables are appreciated as valuable additions to the fare of the family.

38486. It is not so easy to get ground on which tree fruit can be grown, I suppose?—No; it is not.

38487. What sort of soil have you tried for apple and pear trees?—The blindest?—We have tried them on hilly places, but we find certain areas in the county are very well adapted, generally speaking, about Stewartstown and in the Clough Valley. That is for apples. This country generally won't grow pears, but apples can be most successfully grown.

38488. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—On what class of farm?—It is not on a farm, my lord. It has been the custom of the committee—they thought it a wise thing—to locate these plots near National Schools. We have six plots, and they are nearly all in the vicinity of National Schools. There is one within reach here which was taken out of law to make a garden, and last year, or rather the autumn of the previous year, it was simply a field and was then roughly fenced, but it has been put under cultivation, and if your lordship will be passing by that way towards Clough you will see the plot.

38489. Would this be a favourable time of year to see it?—I suppose not?—Well, not to see any tangible result in fruit.

38490. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is not this the time to see the apple blossoms?—You will see the apple blossoms, but you will remember that the trees are all young. They have only been down a couple of years.

38491. Have you had late frosts to interfere with the apple crop?—Yes; on the 25th of May, 1906, I think it was, there was a most frightful frost here, which simply destroyed even the blackberries on the hedges. In this connection I may perhaps mention that Sir Horace Plunkett selected the neighbourhood of Drogheda for the purpose of carrying out an experiment for the improvement of the standard of living among the Irish peasantry. The scheme was independent of the county scheme, and an important part of it consisted in seeking about forty small occupiers to establish gardens and to stock them with fruit trees and vegetables. For this purpose a special expert was employed to give instruction and supervise the laying out of the gardens. When his work was completed the committee were requested to allow the county instructor to aid in the work necessary in connection with the upkeep of the gardens. Although this has made considerable demands upon his time the result has been satisfactory in a high degree, the gardens were properly laid out at the beginning and have been regularly cultivated since, and although all of them are not well kept a considerable number are most satisfactory.

38492. How long has that been in operation?—Two years. I instance this case in order to illustrate the value of intensive organisation in dealing with poor districts, and the credit of that organisation was due to the painstaking and persevering work of the Roman Catholic clergymen in the neighbourhood. The scheme is so far as it concerns the horticultural work, different in no sense from that which the Committee is attempting to carry out all over the county, but the concentration of effort and money on one comparatively

small area has produced a marked and permanent improvement. Perhaps there is no scheme of the Department which does more to assist the very poor than the scheme for encouraging improvement in the poultry-keeping industry.

38463. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Before you pass to that, I wish to ask you in reference to the work of Father Maguire; has it occurred to you that it might be possible to develop that work so that there might be a small orchard used for the purpose of teaching fruit tree cultivation?—That was our object, my lord, but in a great many farms in Tyrone you will find that there are remnants of old orchards. The members of this Commission are well aware that many of the necessities of life, and almost all its luxuries, are provided in the case of the very poor through the sale of poultry products. The Tyrone Committee was one of the first Committees in Ireland to attempt to improve this industry on the lines laid down by the Department. The scheme was initiated by the provision of poultry lectures, and one of the very early centres selected was in the heart of this district, lying between Dooan and Dumaness. The lectures created a good deal of criticism at first; they also aroused interest, and they prepared the way for a further step. The visits of the instructors also did considerable good, and elicited a great deal of information as to the state of the poultry generally kept in the county.

38464. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—About what period or interval is there between the visits of an instructor to the same farm?—Under the ordinary scheme of itinerant instruction in poultry-keeping, the instructors will pay one visit in eighteen months under the lecture system, and one visit in the visiting season. In other words, his lecture period is from October to March. Then the visiting period comes from April to September, allowing, of course, a few weeks interval for the instructor's holiday. Then, she will probably visit each district once. I could not say that she will visit each farm once. I do not say that.

38465. I only wanted to know exactly?—Yes. Stations for the distribution of eggs of pure-bred birds were then established, through these stations any cottager or farmer in the county can obtain eggs of pure-bred birds for hatching from January until the end of May at the rate of 1s. per dozen. This system has been in operation since 1902, and up to last year nearly 25,000 sittings of pure-bred eggs of fowls, geese and ducks, had been distributed in the county. Assuming that on an average fifty per cent. of these eggs developed into mature birds, we find that about 12,000 pure-bred birds are added annually to the county stock at a cost to the county of about seven-tenths of a penny per bird. By this means new blood has been introduced, the size of the egg has increased, the prevalence of disease has been appreciably checked, and it is hoped that a more suitable class of land for fattening purposes will be available in the more advanced districts. With a view to benefiting poor districts the Committee adopted a special scheme for providing eggs of pure-bred geese; this scheme was put in operation in 1905, when six stations were established in mountainous and poor districts; this year three additional stations have been placed upon the list. Three goose eggs constitute a sitting, and the demand for the eggs entirely undercuts the supply. The itinerant instructors in poultry-keeping have devoted a great deal of time to visiting individual poultry keepers in these more remote districts, and here, in Gortle, a class of instruction in tanning was held, and instruction was also given in the grading and packing of eggs. With the Department's permission a portable poultry farm was organised and put in operation in 1906, and has been at work in the county continuously ever since.

38466. What is a portable poultry farm?—May I be permitted to go on and I will explain it. The object of this experiment is to combine in one agency the means for teaching the theory of poultry-keeping, and the means for practical exercise applying that teaching under expert direction, and this in a form which is portable, so that it can be set up at a centre for six weeks and then packed up and moved on to another centre. The little farm, or portable school, is fully equipped on a small scale; there are two pens of fowls kept always on the farm in practical, useful, modern houses and runs; there is one pen of ducks; means are provided for artificial incubation and rearing of chickens, and considerable numbers are reared;

there is a small fattening plant. For lecture purposes there are diagrams and drawings, illustrating the structure of the fowl, the different breeds of fowls, ducks and turkeys, and means are provided for preparing the food in the proper way. The farm has been itinerant for eleven months, and is now located at its seventh centre; it has traversed three rural districts, and is now at its fourth, and even in the depth of winter it was found possible to get girls to attend regularly. It is intended to move the farm into this district during the present summer; it has already visited Dooan and Trillick. The Classes of Instruction in Technical Agriculture have, during the past autumn and winter, been held at small places in order that instruction might be brought within the reach of those who could not have attended if they had been obliged to journey considerable distances daily to one of the larger towns in the county. Considerable importance is attached to the work done under this scheme; it tends probably more than any other poorer work at present in operation to impress on the minds of young men of the agricultural class the dignity and necessity of honest and intelligent work, and prepares the way not only for a supply of more capable and intelligent farmers, who will see it increasingly a meaning and purpose, but also encourages a demand for a higher standard of living, and for the adoption of better methods in farming operations generally.

38467. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What class of work is that?—It is a system by which during the period from about the 20th of October till the close of the second week in March classes are held at three giving centres in the county. They were held last winter at Trillick, Angharady, and Stewartstown. To these classes any young fellow in the county can go, no matter what his position, or vocation, or anything else. He has to pass a very elementary entrance examination, and that consists in being able to work the first four rules of arithmetic and to write a simple composition on any subject connected with farming work. The young men who come to the classes receive a penny a mile as a travelling allowance. They also receive a dinner free. The Department, altogether apart from the County Committee's funds, pay for the instruction. We have an expense in connection with the instruction only in connection with the travelling expenses of the instructor. The class lasts five hours a day, from 10 to 12 or 12.30, and from 1 to 1.30 to 4, and these classes usually last for two days a week. In addition to the theoretical teaching—the syllabus of the course will be found in the early pages of the Report—the teacher, when opportunity arises, takes the students out to a neighbouring farm, or to one of the students' own farms, and gives a practical demonstration of the application of the teaching which he has instilled in the class.

38468. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What sort of attendance have you got?—We generally have an attendance of about twelve; we sometimes have an attendance of fifteen, and we have had an attendance of as many as twenty-one, but the poorer the district the more difficult it is to get attendance, and for this reason, with your permission, sir, I should like to bring this difficulty before the Commission. The difficulty in the poorer districts is this. In order, as I have said, to allow these students to enter for the course it is necessary for the Department to impose a slight test. The object of the test is merely in order that they may be satisfied that the student is capable of receiving the instruction which is to be given. It is not with the object of selecting specially brilliant students. It is with the object of fixing a slight minimum qualification. I can speak accurately about this, because I know what these examinations are from personal experience during several years. It is evident to members of the Commission that young fellows who have been at work on a farm for several years have probably forgotten—simply temporarily forgotten—the working of arithmetic and things of that nature.

38469. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Could you make no provision for that?—That is precisely the point, my lord, that I wish to come to.

38470. Why could you not provide for that?—That is precisely our difficulty. We could, under a local scheme, take a number of boys from the poorer districts, and give them the necessary preliminary training, but my Committee have never made an application to the Department for a grant for that purpose,

Aug 27, 1907.

Mr. F. G. Dillane.

May 27, 1907.

Mr. F. G.
Dallaghan.

not because they were not anxious to do it, but because there is no doubt of what the reply of the Department would be:—“We cannot provide money for teaching of that kind; our money must be provided for technical instruction in agriculture.”

38593. There are two ways in which one might conceive it could be done. Supposing one of your centres is fixed in a poor district, there might be a condition for that centre that a certain amount of Primary education should be given to the occupiers at the start?—That would be one way of doing it. Another way would be to take into consideration the special wants of these localities, and not to be insistent on these arithmetical and other requirements, but to proceed to give the young fellows instruction in the cultivation that would suit the district.

38590. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I understand from the witness that the examination is extremely elementary, and that it is only intended to test a fair amount of intelligence rather than instruction. I should think that really with an apparent failure as an examination for marks, so to speak, it would enable you to say, “This is an intelligent fellow; he will be fit for teaching.”—Is practice that is what is done.

38591. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Having stated in answer to the Chairman that you merely require an amount of intelligence, do you not think that intelligence is not now at a lower level than in the past? You make the admission that it is intelligence pure and simple that is necessary?—My opinion of the intelligence of the Irish peasantry is very considerable, and I have no doubt that their intelligence would always carry them through, but in order to calculate the value of a manure which is an educational factor in farming one must know the few rules of arithmetic.

38592. Are you quite sure that even with a National school education the boys of the mountain side are not quite as forward as those in the lowlands?—I can only speak in relation to the difficulty in the poorer districts with regard to this examination.

38593. But are the districts that you have selected specially suited for the purpose?—I dare say Trillick is a poor district?—It is.

38594. But might not you easily find in the County Tyrone poorer districts than any you have named?—I hope to place classes next year in still poorer districts.

38595. You think it would be desirable to select poorer districts?—I do, very desirable.

38596. You think that poorer districts should be put in the way of benefiting by this class of instruction?—I do.

38597. They have special need of it?—Yes.

38598. Any public help that would be given to the county should be interdicted in the case of the poorer districts?—Undoubtedly.

38599. You say that the work done under this scheme encourages a demand for a higher standard of living. How would you wish to see the standard of living improved?—You ask me a very big question.

38600. I do not want to put an abstract question to you; but taking the concrete fact that living has become more expensive for these people, how do you wish to have the standard of living improved?—I think the standard of living could be considerably improved by what I may call an increase in domestic thrift.

38601. You would not increase the coarseness of it?—Certainly not.

38602. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Do you fix any limit of age for these classes?—Sixteen is the maximum, but there is no upward limit.

38603. Do you find that any aged men have attended?—We have had one man nearly forty-five.

38604. Do aged men take advantage of it as well as the others?—Not to the same extent. The aim of the classes is to get hold of the young men, but the older men come to them.

38605. I think the Department wished to put a maximum limit, but the County Councils as a rule do not approve of that?—Certainly my County Committee has never attempted to fix an upward limit.

38606. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You mentioned that each of these young men was allowed £4 a mile for travelling. Is that per mile however he may travel?—Per mile, being allowed to go anywhere. Provided that he satisfies the Department as to his progress—

and I may say 90 per cent. of them do—that travelling allowance is paid. In several cases where the students did not make, or where it was thought the students did not make, the necessary effort to acquire the amount of progress which was thought necessary their travelling allowance was not paid.

38607. And that small amount of travelling allowance is paid from what funds?—From the joint fund, that is from the four-ninths County money, and the five-ninths Department money. Each student who passes with credit through these classes is, in a sense, an additional instructor who in his own neighbourhood sets an example to others of the desirability of adopting better methods, and this point is of considerable importance when it is remembered that local traditions plays such an important part in determining the methods of cultivation and feeding which obtain in many districts.

38608. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You have in this week a final examination when the course is all over?—Yes. The Department periodically examines the students. An inspector comes down from the Department once in six weeks to each centre, and he examines them, and he is the person that reports to the Department; and we hold a written examination and an oral examination at the end, and in connection with that the County Committee always give book prizes. The Live Stock Schemes adopted by the Committee are those for the improvement of the breed of horses, of cattle, and of swine. The County Committee offer seventy nominations to farmers' names each year, and they arrange that at least two-thirds of these nominations shall be awarded to men whose property of farms whose valuation is under £50. The Committee has made a consistent effort to place premium bulls in poorer districts, and has been greatly assisted in that effort by the Department. There is great difficulty very often in finding anyone in such districts willing to purchase a bull even on easy terms, but the difficulty is gradually decreasing now that the value of such animals in improving the stock is better known. You will see the places where premium bulls are located indicated by the letter B on the map.

38609. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Have the small farmers held that the terms were not possible for them?—Well, it is a very difficult problem to locate bulls in the most needy districts. I do not think it can be justly alleged against my Committee that efforts have not been made to place bulls in poor districts. Efforts have been made. The response is the difficulty. At the present time my Committee offer to locate a bull in Greenacres. Two years ago they actually located a bull in Greenacres. That bull was to my knowledge sold to the purchaser at a loss to the Department. I know that to be a fact. The bull was purchased for a special object. If I remember rightly an agricultural machinery, which is doing a great deal of good in the district and which was expected to do a great deal of good, was about that time about to be established, and it desired that a bull should be placed in the district which might increase the supply of milk. The bull was not bought for its appearance, and I understand from evidence produced here that his stock was not very satisfactory. The first result may not have been satisfactory. I think this Commission will remember that the intention of the Committee was certainly to assist a particular case, and a premium animal may at any time go wrong. You cannot guarantee, as any practical farmer will tell you, the fruitfulness of a breeding bull.

38610. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I see that a certain proportion of the nominations for farms are limited to farmers whose valuation is over £50?—Yes.

38611. But I presume it goes down a great deal lower?—In actual practice I may tell you that in Omagh and Trillick, the district you are dealing with to-day, we offered twenty-one nominations to farmers' names this year. Of those nominations seven always go to men whose valuation is over £50, and the fourteen to men whose valuation is under £50. In actual practice six of those fourteen nominations have gone to men whose valuation is under £30, and two have gone to men whose valuation is under £10, and the number of men below £50 valuation who keep a horse is comparatively few.

38612. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would not one think that there ought to be a class under £50 distinctly specified?—We have always adhered to that

rule. We have always divided the premiums in the proportion of two-thirds for under £50 and one-third for over £50.

38533. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are those premiums graduated having regard to the fact that four months comes out of the rates and five months out of the Department's funds?—They are not exactly graduated, because I assume that the Department's work is based on the principle of self-help.

38534. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Does the method of selecting these cattle put up the price?—Do I understand you to mean that the bulls selected for premiums obtain good prices?

38535. Yes?—Undoubtedly. I know one small place where bulls have been sold to the Argentine and the total amount realised for their sale has been, I believe, £2,000.

38536. Would there be any possibility of buying the cattle before classifying them as premium bulls?—That might be a possibility. At present the arrangement is that if you want to hold a premium bull you go to a show, one of the shows named by the Department, and there you are at liberty to purchase any animal which has passed as approved for a premium.

38537. The passing for approval puts up the price?—Certainly, the demand for premium bulls puts up the price of the premium bulls.

38538. Mr. KAVANAGH.—I see only half of your premiums have been taken up?—I think you are referring to another matter.

38539. The yearling bulls of 1907?—Excuse me. The number of vacancies given there refers to vacancies which have been created for yearlings by the removal of two-year-olds, not to vacancies in the rural district at all. The premiums were located in this district are indicated in the map under "P," and, considering that only fifteen premiums are offered annually in the county, the share held in nearly districts is very large.

38540. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Would you give the Commission the names to which the prizes are assigned?—Yes. In our report it is clearly set forth on page 43. There you have the name of each winner, and on page 45 you have the scheme. Class I was confined to those who did not hold more than five statute acres of land and earned their living by agricultural labour or labour directly connected with agriculture. And I should like to call the attention of the Commissioners, if I may, to page 45, in which you see the list of winners in the neighbourhood of Drumquin. A large number of prizes were awarded in the neighbourhood of Drumquin, Trillick, and the neighbourhood of Pomeroy, and in several of the poor districts of the county prizes were won. That was the first year the scheme was put in operation, and it is hoped this year that when the entries have increased very much the prizes may go to the poor districts—Carrickmore, Creggan, Glenties, Loughmuck, Fallow.

38541. Would you be able to say whether many of those prizes have gone to the districts of Glenties, Carrickmore, and Fallow, where the valuation has been extremely low?—I am not prepared to say at the present moment whether in the neighbourhood of Carrickmore that has actually taken place, but I am prepared to say that in the direction of Mountfield one prize was awarded.

38542. They are electoral divisions?—Well, I deal with rural districts. I have nothing to do with the electoral divisions. As an officer of the County Committee I deal entirely with the rural districts.

38543. In the rural district of Omagh there are several electoral divisions with a valuation per head under 30s.?—Yes.

38544. And those are the four that I read out?—I cannot say that.

38545. Well, the information that you have given to the Commission is very interesting?—I think this one, Mountfield, is the only one likely to fall within any of those. The cottage and small farm scheme provides for about £40 worth of prizes being distributed in each division of the county—the divisions are arbitrary divisions for this purpose—among cottages and small farmers in Tyrone. A large number of these prizes were won last year by small occupiers in the poorer districts of the county, the districts I can indicate in the map. Under this scheme all the holdings entered for competition are thoroughly inspected at least once by a qualified judge, who frequently gives advice to the occupier in regard to manuring, cropping, draining, and the care of live

stock, the sanitation of the house and its surroundings, and other similar matters. The scheme tends to inform the occupiers, while it offers substantial rewards for their efforts. In regard to grants-in-aid of shows made by the Committee from the sum set aside for that purpose, it has always been an aim to provide specially for the smallest farmers in the poorest districts. For two years the sum of thirty pounds was set aside to provide classes with a nominal entry for which should be open only to residents in certain townlands and electoral divisions selected specially as in need of assistance.

38546. What was the district?—These townlands fall within this immediate neighbourhood. They were specially selected and named in the schedules of the shows. It was provided that such classes should be open only to residents in the specified districts and that there should be no entry for fair exhibitors in these classes.

38547. What was the valuation?—My memory does not serve me accurately in the matter at the present moment, but I think it was £10.

38548. In the poorest district you might have an extensive occupier who could easily outdistance the smaller men?—That has not in actual practice been found to be the case.

38549. You do not regulate the limitation?—I am not prepared to say that.

38550. Mr. KAVANAGH.—They were successful at those places?—They were not successful. The grant was administered through the three shows bordering on the districts, viz., Strahane Show, Omagh Show, and Cookstown Show. At their own expense the Committee advertised these classes in this district, but the response was very poor, and eventually the grant was withdrawn. The Committee then organised in another district a small local exhibition, which was very successful, and was in some small degree instrumental in stimulating the formation of a society which now holds an annual show in that rural district. In making grants to any show the Committee always insists on proper provision being made for classes for small farmers.

38551. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The Department insisted on that too?—Well, it is really the County Committee that insisted on that in this particular county. I cannot speak for other counties; but in this particular county the Committee always made it an absolute rule that they will pass no show schedule that does not provide a class for farmers under £25.

I think it was the Department that insisted on it.

38552. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Considering the very large number of occupiers in Tyrone under 25 valuation, do you not think that a man valued at £15 ought not to be allowed to compete with a man valued at £25?—I think the greater the difference in valuation the less likely is it that you will secure satisfactory competition. In conclusion I may mention that all the schemes in operation in the county offer advantages to the poorest farmer in the county. It is true that these schemes are not framed exclusively for his benefit, nor is it possible with the resources which the Committee has at command at present to put such special schemes in operation. The system which has been introduced by the Department could readily be adapted to meet special needs were it possible to supplement in some way the amount actually contributed by these districts in which a modification of the present educational schemes or further facilities for the enjoyment of the benefits to be derived from these schemes are required. If a townland which may contribute as little as 5s. to the joint fund enjoys many of the advantages enjoyed by another townland of equal area contributing forty times that amount, this gain is all on the side of the poorer district. The existing schemes are not at fault; the rich are not robbing the poor, but supporting them. But, for the poor to have all they undoubtedly need some additional help is required which may enable the present system to be extended in their favour.

38553. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Can you tell me the total amount of the funds which were at the disposal of the Committee last year?—You will find it on page 58 of our Report. It is not the actual but the estimated expenditure, but our expenditure always approximates closely to the estimate. I see the amount available from the joint grant was £2,327.

38554. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—In what sense do you say that the rich support the poor?—Well, my

May 27 1907

Mr. P. G. Gallagher.

May 27, 1906,

Mr. P. G.
O'Donnell.

land, in this sense. The schemes apply to rural districts. Let us take it in this way. Let us suppose that a rural district consists of 10,000 acres, and that 8,000 acres of that 10,000 acres is poor. Now it is very probable that the first 5,000 acres will contribute, say, £500 on the rate and the other would contribute £250. Nevertheless the total amount available for schemes in the rural district is £250. But there is no limitation on the poor district in favour of the rich district. What advantage there are for the rich district there are equally for the poor district, save in one point. Tenant and small holdings are difficult, and, therefore, that makes it more difficult for the poor to avail themselves of the advantages.

38546. From your evidence it would seem that the poor districts would actually derive an advantage?—They derive, my lord, and I think I can prove it in figures, a great deal more benefit than their actual contribution entitles them to.

38547. Mr. KAVANAGH.—That would be if they could compete with the larger competitor. Now in general they cannot compete with the richer man, therefore they never probably get a prize—I think that is the most probable example that can be taken. If you wish the argument to depend on that I am perfectly willing. Take the case of the premium bull. Now it is quite possible that in rural districts there are townlands of the present time in which a premium bull is located and that that townland's valuation is not anything like paying for the premium bull, and yet it is in the middle of the townland.

38548. But even so. The class of their cattle is not suited for the premium bull. It is the richer man who will get the advantage of the premium bull, not the poorer man?—The bull is selected with a view to the needs of the district, and although I quite appreciate what you say that all the premium bulls have not been successful in every district—that I am perfectly prepared to admit, that they have not always been successful—yet there is another difficulty to meet. As the Commission is well aware, on the Continent the system has been introduced of breeding what they call milk bulls, and an attempt has been made to do so in England. Were such a "milk bull" sent to Tyrone, I doubt very much whether any farmer could be persuaded to keep such a bull. The award for milking qualities is not so great among local farmers as the demand for saleable young stock. The short-horn would, therefore, seem most likely to meet their requirements.

38549. This is not a dairying locality?—But it is stocked with creameries and there is one within a mile of where you are sitting, and another seven miles away.

38550. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is not it quite as easy for the larger man to pay a penny in the pound as the smaller man?—That is a question which, of course, I cannot argue in view of the death duties.

38551. When the rich man pays not at a higher

rate, but just proportionately as the poor man, is not it as easy for him to pay a penny in the pound as for the poor man?—I think you are right in that.

38552. But for that effort, which is quite as little for him as the effort the poor man makes, he gets a bigger subsidy?—No, my lord. I think I cannot admit that.

38553. I should like to see how you can deny it?—You see the rural district is the unit.

38554. You have a rich man and a poor man contributing. Now in proportion to the rich man's contribution he receives more benefit?—The total benefits derived are measured by the amount available. Therefore the poor man really derives the benefit which result from the rich man's additional funds being made available for the poor man, whereas if the rural district obtained its benefits on the basis of the poor man's estate there would not be half the benefits available.

38555. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Would it be so that the poor man would get a full share out of all your instruction, lectures, and so forth?—That is so. The poor man gets full benefit of all instruction, but it is of course perfectly legitimate for a witness to come up and say that in his district lectures have not been held. That is perfectly true. On account of the area of Tyrone it is very difficult in five years to make an impression. You are, of course, aware that in Donegal a large proportion of the labourers are migratory and go over to England and Scotland, and work in Scotland under the very best farmers in the three kingdoms. They have been doing that for generations. Have they brought back any very distinct benefits as a result of what they have seen in Scotland?

38556. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Decidedly. I want to put this case before your mind is being it out clearly. Take a rural district in which people are comparatively well-off. Take another rural district. Now Kildare or some of the rural districts which we have heard of to-day. It costs as much effort and sacrifice for the people of Kildare to pay their penny in the pound as it does for the people in the richer district to pay their penny in the pound, but the penny in the pound will raise much more in the latter than in the worse rural district. The result is that calculating the Department's grant at 25s. to the pound of the amount raised in raise the rich rural district gets far more from the Department than the poor rural district?—That is perfectly true, but in actual practice the fact is that in Tyrone there is no such thing as one district being very poor and an adjoining one being very rich. A large proportion of the tract of country that you are considering to-day runs into Coolstown rural district. Another portion into Omagh, and another into Stranahan. Therefore the burden of the contribution of these poor districts is between three of the richer districts, and in that way it does not work out as an inability.

Rev. Philip
O'Doherty.

Rev. PHILIP O'DONNELL examined.

38557. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are parish priest of Clumber-Clandry, County Derry?—Yes; portion of the parish is in Tyrone. The condition of the main portion of the parish is exactly the same as that of the districts I have heard described here to-day. I propose to send a tabulated statement to the secretary, taken from the Census, giving the latest information as to the valuation per head. I am anxious to emphasize the necessity for establishing agricultural schools. There was one at Lough Ash and there was one at Templemore near Eglinton. Each did as immense deal of good a couple of generations back. Lough Ash school was partly National and was supported, I believe, by some private contributions. Templemore was supported by the endowment from the London societies. The men who were educated there—farmers' sons—were afterwards men of light and leading in their several districts. I have heard some ascribe their success to the practical education they had got in these schools. As education goes now they would be considered not up-to-date in the way of technical knowledge and culture, but those taught there knew their business. In Clumber the shirt industry had its cradle. It has been long established.

The sewing must have been very good. It was Clumber that brought over the late Mr. William Tille to Derry. The shirt industry recognised him as its founder. The shirt industry is now very precarious as a resource, and the wages are very much down. If it was not for the shirt industry I don't think the people could have lived at all in the district. It has a serious drawback in one way; I think it is most injurious to girls, who have to sit up to very late hours sewing. The girls who are working constantly are and must be in a very anæmic condition. I think it does a great deal of injury in that way. There has been a serious decline in prices, but, of course, they work hard to make as much wages as possible.

38558. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would not it be a great thing if some training in domestic science went side by side with this industrial employment for girls?—Yes. The underclothing industry is also largely availed of. The parish has been famous with all the leading houses for its work, but the work is now so precarious and the wages are so much lower that it cannot be depended on as formerly.

38559. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Why is that—is it because of machinery?—Yes, and because of foreign

competition, many of the girls live at such long distances from themselves that they lose a day going and coming. Clearly is the centre. They have small stations. As the work is not so plentiful as it used to be, they don't bring it to the stations. The girls sometimes have to travel five miles to the central station, and practically lose a whole day. Again, the condition of the people generally is such as Father McCoolledge said about his own district. A great many of the farms are mortgaged with them. Carting is the only industry for the men, and competition for carting, on account of the long distance from the railway centre, is doing a great deal of harm, because the men have nothing else to do. There are several mills along the Fungah river. Carting is at a price that cannot keep body and soul together, because the competition is so great.

38560. You are speaking of small holders?—Yes, whose farms are largely mortgaged in this district bordering on Tyrone. When they go to Derry and come back it means they are unfit to work their own farms next day, because to some it means a distance of thirty-two miles going and coming. They do carting for 5s. 6d. a ton. That is the highest. That would be 5d. a cwt. That would be to Park. It was only lately they got that; there was a strike among the carters. In other districts they get very much less. Very often they are not paid in money but in kind; so it is ruinous to them; but as there is no other industry they take it to them. Other industries have died out. There were sack mills, and weaving was common enough. There have been efforts made, as Mr. Lynch said to-day, to connect these districts with Derry. I don't know any other district than a large portion of North Derry; but practically in the matter of railway accommodation it is like a South African jungle. I have no doubt a great portion of the proposed railway would pay commercially, but I don't know that that portion that would come up to Park would pay, for that would be through a poor district.

38561. Would not it also have the effect of putting an end to those people's earnings as carters if the railway came up and carried the stuff?—I have said perhaps that it would be a blessed day when carting would be ended, as it is at present on most ruinous lines of competition. It is very demoralising. It is very hard for young fellows to be sober going in on wet days, with very little food, a distance of fifteen miles, and walking back same journey. The prices are so ruinous that it means practically less than 6s. for two days, because they are unfit for work the next day going and coming these long distances—both the men and horses.

38562. What you mean is that they have to do it, because they cannot get anything else to do. If you brought a railroad up there it would take that from them?—I should expect a development of industries. It would be a blessed thing that would end the carting, because it is ruinous to their homes. I know, as a matter of fact, a great many of the farms to be mortgaged. They receive payment in kind, not in money. I know only two men who have survived the carting of the district; they are men of great strength of character. All the others have gone down under it—competition is so keen and payment is so very small. However, it is not so much about the railway I am anxious. I am far more anxious to get the district scheduled under the Congested Districts Board, for the other advantages

that would come. I think that drainage, both surface and main, would be needed. There are also very large belts of portions of the country that would lend themselves to re-afforesting, and whatever other industries that might come, and I look with hope to the practical benefits that would be given to the people. I do not think that the lectures, such as we have had from the Department of Agriculture, have been at all practical. They have been few, but I don't think a man with a blackboard pointing down algebraic formulae to a peasant audience is likely to spread knowledge in a rural district, and there is a great deal of that going.

38563. I thought a blackboard is a very good way of giving instruction—the algebra I grant at once!—Well, the blackboard, minus the algebraic formulae. About the large farm townlands, my experience is that farms in the districts you were speaking of are aggregates from small farms, whose owners had gone to the wall on account of the difficulty of their position. Therefore I think that in scheduling a district, it would be a very great disadvantage if such small holders were to be excluded from the benefits of the Congested Districts Board, because they happen to have some big farms in their townlands.

38564. You say you don't think a district should escape being scheduled where the general poverty is great, although one or two men in it may hold large farms, on which they can get along without being scheduled?—I am referring to the evidence given here earlier in the day, and I don't see why small holders in townlands should be excluded because there happen to be large farmers there; because my experience is these large farms are almost invariably an aggregate of small farms, whose owners have disappeared.

38565. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Even if they were not the aggregate of small farms don't you think it a pity that the presence of a large farm or two should be the means of preventing the small farmers receiving remedial treatment which, in the absence of the large farms, they would receive?—Yes, but I think the fact I mention emphasises the necessity for scheduling these small holdings.

38566. You know Innishowen very well?—Yes. 38567. Do you think that the district to which you refer—especially in your parish lying up to these mountains that divide Derry from Tyrone—is as poor and as much in need of help as the Carrisnagh district of Innishowen?—Much poorer than Carrisnagh. The Glengad district is the only one I would put in comparison with Carrisnagh, which is completely out of the world.

38568. As regards the means of the small occupiers, how do they contrast with those of Glengad district and other poor districts in Innishowen?—The Glengad district, of course, is extremely poor; but, speaking as I do from absolute knowledge of the mortgages on the farms, I think the position of small farmers generally in these districts could not be much worse.

38569. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you adopt the evidence that has been given to-day as regards the other places as applying to your case?—I do.

38570. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You don't consider the county schemes have been sufficient to give the poor area the treatment it required?—I don't see that they have given us anything that might be called treatment to benefit our condition. I have not myself practical experience of the work of the Congested Districts Board. From what I have heard I believe they realise the condition of the people.

Mr. HUGH McCULLAGH examined.

38571. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—Yes; I reside at Carrisnagh.

38572. What is the particular point you would like us to bear in mind?—The point I wish to mention is the value of an acre of crop. In my district it is not of great value. We work hard enough for it, but it is not very valuable at present.

38573. I suppose the crop of an acre of ground depends very much on what the ground is?—Yes.

38574. Where is your holding?—Within two and a half miles of this town, to the north.

38575. What is the size of your farm?—I have fourteen acres of arable and forty of mountain.

38576. What is the rent?—It is sold out now. It is something like 24 lbs.; the valuation is 27.

38577. How much have you under tillage?—Fourteen acres.

38578. How is that divided, as a rule?—I may have five acres of oats and three or four of bar, grazing for cattle, and four acres of meadow.

38579. How many quarters of oats do you get out of your four acres?—I will tell you in stones; an acre of oats would yield about sixty stones; that is, in my locality.

38580. What price do you hope to get?—The price is about 74d. in this town for a stone.

38581. That would give you 23 lbs. an acre for the value of the crop; is that what you would expect to get?—That is what we do get. I got an acre of oats last year, or what we call an Irish acre. I got it

May 27, 1907.

Rev. Philip O'Donnell.

Mr. Hugh McCullagh.

May 27, 1900.

Mr. Hugh
McCarthy.

threshed in the threshing mill; there was 100 stones in it, and I got 7½d. per stone.

38592. About your meadow?—Out of that four acres there might be five tons eaten or used.

38593. What would you get for a ton of hay in year on the average?—Suppose I went to an auction, in winter, I would not get more than twenty pence or two shillings a ton.

Mr. Charles
E. Clarke.

38597. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—Yes. I reside at Glenageary, Dublin. I commenced to farm there in the year 1883. I then purchased three farms: the first farm contained 21 acres, with a valuation of £3 15s. The second adjoins it, with an area of 23 acres, and a valuation of £4. The third farm contains 19 acres and 2 rods, and has a valuation of £5 10s. The total area of the three farms is 53 acres, and the total valuation is £13 5s. I can assure you I can only make a very poor living of the three farms combined.

38598. Did you purchase the freehold soil?—No, the tenant right. The two owners I purchased from went to the wall from poverty, and I bought the two farms, as they were up for sale. I bought the third one by private negotiation. As has been explained here to-day, and as is the case with my three farms, the farms in the district generally consist of a barn, they run away up to the top of the mountain. On each of these farms there are a few acres lying along the river that I try to meadow sometimes; and sometimes I get a crop of it, and sometimes it is flooded; and I don't know whether to grow it or meadow it; some years I get a crop of hay off it, and some years the flood carries it away. I manage the cattle as best I can. I have to make embankments at my own expense, to keep the river off the land. One-third part of the farm is so steep that I cannot work it. I don't know the gradient, but it would be a very difficult job to work up. You cannot plough it up one acre, and to plough it down would be such a hardship on men and horses that you could not look at it as a man doing it. From that then for about another one-third of the farm the lands improve, and some of them are level. I try to farm that. On the other one-third of the farm I can put no beast; it is generally a dry heath; the heath is not much good for cattle, and the area is too small for sheep; so except in the middle portion of the farm I get nothing of it. I have about fifteen acres of arable on the three that I speak about. I tried every improvement in order to labour this land. First the bays were small, and I removed stone dykes, and made them large. Next, we had to see our system for mowing. I thought that a tedious process, and to try to make something out of the farm I purchased a reaping machine. The first year I tried the reaping machine I found that the wheel of the machine would go down into the ridges and get stuck, and the knives of the machine would get clogged up, and I had to drop that. The next year I was not satisfied, but thinking it would be well to remove the ridges I made the land flat, and the consequence was the land got too deep; I could use the machine, but I would not get a crop. I used every means that I believe an intelligent farmer could use. I was not scarce of capital. I could use capital and purchase all machinery necessary for a farm, but still I could not take any benefit. What I want to improve on the Commission is this. These three holdings I have I believe would be a fair representation of all the holdings comprised from, say, Fintona up to the Doona. It would be a fair specimen of these holdings. How can any one farmer live upon one farm such as I have? I can work them with all the economy, and with all the skilled labour that can be produced, because I am not stirred for capital, by no means, and when I cannot live economically on these three, then I want to impress on the Commission that it is still harder for ordinary farmers, without capital, to live on smaller holdings. I am stating the truth; because it does not make so much difference to me.

38599. Your point is really that fifteen acres of this land are not an economic holding?—It is not; along with the other grazing that I have.

38600. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Further, you explain that with your sixty-three acres, which are

38594. What stock have you got?—I have five milk cows.

38595. And any calves?—I rear three or four calves in the year.

38596. Do you sell your milk?—Yes; in the country.

valued at £13 5s., it is not very easy for a farmer to get on?—I say he cannot get on on it; not on the land of soil we have in this locality. If you were situated where the soil and climate are good, you might, but I say you cannot do it in our district. I can farm as economically as any farmer; I understand farming, and I carry it out with as much sense as I can.

38591. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What does that lead you to recommend to the Commission?—I would recommend to the Commission that in order to enable the people to live in this district it should be scheduled.

38592. You want to get it scheduled as a congested district?—Yes; it commences with Sperrin mountains in the North; there are three principal ranges of mountains in this district—the Sperrin mountains; the next is the Glenack, and the third is the Mullagh-carn mountain. Sperrin mountain rises to 2,240 feet, and the highest peak of the Glenack mountain is about 2,300 feet, and the Mullagh-carn is about the same. It is all a series of mountain ranges and large hills, and it is hard to labour them and make anything out of them.

38593. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What sized farms would you say is a workable economic farm?—I don't believe you will derive any middling result from less than fifty acres. If you had a farm of twenty to twenty-five acres of mountain soil, that would not be work enough for one horse, and one horse is not a profitable thing in farming. You cannot till, work machinery, or anything of that nature with one horse, and two horses would work sixty acres at the best. I calculate fifty; you would have two horses working fifty acres, and you can use every improvement that you must use to keep in touch with the age.

38594. You say fifty acres is the smallest you consider to be an economic farm in this country?—I would not get on for having anything else.

38595. Mr. O'KEEFE.—In the County Tyrone?—In this portion of the County Tyrone; of course, on better soil you might thrive on forty.

38596. But you say an economic holding should be fifty acres?—I say on medium soil.

38597. Suppose you want to get economic holdings, how are you to get them?—You must have at least fifty acres of arable land.

38598. You say a man cannot be regarded as having an economic holding unless he has fifty acres?—I believe so.

38599. How are you going to get fifty acres for each holder in Tyrone?—You cannot get it.

38600. What is the remedy?—The remedy I would suggest, and it is quite practicable provided it is done, is that the present holdings could be improved somewhat by drainage and by stone bays; I would suppose very much of them bays in the mountainous districts, and, of course, planting also; but it does not matter how you improve them; you may improve them considerably, but not to the standard of making a living.

38601. How many acres of good improving land, in your view, would make an economic holding?—You mean reclaimed land, not naturally fertile.

38602. Bringing it up to its highest reproductive power?—I don't think you could live on less than forty.

38603. Even though it is improved?—I don't see how you would improve it, and along with that, you would need to have naturally fertile soil.

38604. I will assume that we have a fertile soil, and the land is improved up to the very limit, how many acres, in your view, of such land would form an economic holding?—I would say forty is little enough. How are you to compete with the other countries having farms of land hundreds of thousands of acres? You cannot do it; you must have a certain scope to graze and to work with horse power.

38605. What would be the valuation of these forty

acres—I would expect the valuation of the forty acres would be up to 5s. an acre; that is £12.

38506. Would you not think that would be a rather low valuation for forty acres of the best land in the county?—Land in this district?

38507. I am talking of land of the highest possible power—I am no judge of land in other counties, but I am a perfect judge of land in this district.

38508. Would you differ from the view of those who have expressed the opinion that a farm of land over £10 valuation might be regarded as economic?—I think it would be too low.

38509. On what would you base your view?—On this, that it does not matter how many acres you have, if they are only valued at £10, it would need to be a very bad quality of land.

38510. What is your electoral division?—Gortin, in the union of Omagh.

38511. There are twenty-five holdings in Gortin under 64 valuation and sixty-four under £20, and 54 per cent. of the holdings altogether are under £10 valuation; how do you propose to make these economic?—By themselves?

38512. Yes?—It cannot be done.

38513. Therefore no matter what remedial measures may be tried these are going to remain congested for all time?—Yes. You may considerably improve them, but they will remain economic. You cannot do it unless you use some other means besides the land; you cannot pull out of the land when it is not in it.

38514. Your view is this: no matter what you may do with the land it is impossible ever to make the holdings economic?—You never will do it here.

38515. What do you suggest then as is the possible means to improvement?—You certainly may improve them considerably, but you never can get so many farmers to live on the holdings as there are at present. When I cannot live on three holdings how can any man live on one. I am not an extravagant man: I don't smoke, and I drink scarcely anything. I am as drunk now as I ever was in my life. How can you manage it; I cannot do it. I am not so very hard to support. I have tried it; I am not bound by capital, and I tried improvements. I tried fertilisers and every means that I could have had. I cannot get it out of the land, and it never will be got out of it.

38516. Have you heard the evidence of the other witnesses examined to-day, that it is possible to make holdings economic by drainage and reclamation, and improved methods of agriculture; do you differ from that evidence?—I don't know what condition they came to. I say you can improve them, but that a man and his family cannot live on them.

38517. So you can hold out no hope for the people of Tyrone no matter what is done?—It is only the mountain range portion that I allude to. What I would suggest as practicable is this: In these mountainous districts there is a large quantity of black-faced sheep. I believe, taking the whole district round, you could get from 20,000 to 35,000 black-faced sheep. That is including the whole range of Mullaghern, and going up by Carrickmore, and up to the marches of the County Derry, and I suggest that you would start a woollen industry and work it by the power of the water, because to compete successfully I don't think you could do very much with cottage industries. You might. I am not a judge of them; but where machinery can be worked, there is no hand can compete with it; that is my impression. You have an amount of water power in these rivers running down and doing nothing. It might be used in starting, say, a carding machine or weaving machinery to turn out a rough quality of cloth, and rough

tweeds, frieze, blankets, rugs, male. The wool available would represent the produce of from 20,000 to 35,000 sheep. This would start a permanent industry here, and an industry which would be bound to hold on, as the mountains are there and the sheep would be there. A great deal has been said about lime. I have to go to Cookstown for lime. The men I have would not work after night for me, and it would not be reasonable to ask them. I had to send them to Cookstown. They stayed all night there. Along with paying these wages and the expense of cartage and paying for the lime, I had to give them something also for a glass of whiskey. I had to build all my houses with the lime I got there; that was very dear, but there was no other lime convenient. There is no lime in this district or in any poor district—it does not matter where it is or in what country it is—where the soil is poor it cannot be successfully farmed without lime. It applies to all poor places. Cookstown is the nearest place for us to get lime; but there is a splendid limestone quarry near Plumbridge, but there is no means of working it, nor any machinery to crush it out of the rock. I believe that is expensive machinery, although, if established, I believe it would do well enough; but there is no means of doing it, and it is very expensive to get it. There is nothing, in my opinion, would aid more, if it could be done, than if there were a railroad to start from Dunsassara to Cookstown. I would have no narrow gauge line; it is only a half way of doing it, but a big broad line, if I was going to do it at all. The narrow gauge is only a makeshift of a thing.

38518. Mr. O'Kearney.—What is your opinion of the scheme proposed by the Agricultural Department in this part of the country?—I can form no other opinion except that so far as the poor districts in the county are concerned it is a complete failure.

38519. You pay rates?—Yes.

38520. Has any advantage been derived by the people of your district from the local committee?—None whatever. I had experience myself. I buy and sell cattle. There was one time I had a beast bred off one of these Government bulls. I was trying to sell it in the county and I could not sell it.

38521. Why?—It was a stunted, thin, small animal. I had to pay dearly for the experience.

38522. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What induced you to try it?—I saw the praises of the thing scattered in the papers that this was a great improvement in stock, and I certainly wanted to try the experiment. To prove anything right you must try by experiment, and I bought this animal. I took it to Gortin fair and Newtown fair, and there or four more fairs, and I could not sell it until I had to mix it with all my own raising, and that is how I got rid of it. In a poor district the scheme is practically no use. They send round lectures in fowl, and things like that. What is the good of that? A penny newspaper, the *Freeman's Journal*, or any weekly paper, will give six times, indeed I may say ten times, more information every week than they give altogether. It may be useful in rich districts where they can compete for prices. Sometimes they offer prices in this Gortin district or Greenacres. I think the prices are too low. I believe if you went to compete at Omagh or Dungannon for the prices, that if you won a prize it would cost you ten times its actual value.

38523. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—That would be one of the reasons why there has not been competition among the small farmers for these prizes?—Certainly; even if you won the prize, it is such a long distance, and the thing would be so trifling in value that it would not pay you to go.

Mr. PATRICK M'BRIEN examined.

38524. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?—At Gloughroughglo. I represent the Glenade electoral division and Killarnan, east of Mount Hamilton.

38525. You are a farmer?—Yes. I have sixteen acres. We are paying to the Irish Land Commission. We belong to that unfortunate class called the Globe farmers. We were the first to begin purchase. We bought under the Act of 1869, before there were any Land Courts, and we bought at the old rack rate.

38526. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The full purchase money was not advanced?—No. We had to pay

the one-fourth of it down. The farms in this district are very small. The tenants have to depend on relatives in America or relatives who went to England and Scotland. The holdings are uneconomic, and not self-supporting. I am aware of a great many instances of the money being supplied so. I have been informed that Mr. Edward McCullagh, who keeps a shop and post office at Bannan, has cashed American drafts for £27 for tenants in one week. The portions of the electoral divisions of Glenade consist of a very large grazing ranch, the property of Colonel Lewry, of Posenoy, and there is also a grazing ranch in the electoral

May 27, 1907.

Mr. Charles E. Clarke.

Mr. Patrick M'Brian.

May 12, 1907. Division of Glensheil, in the townlands of Anghiboy and Leppinaghin, the property of Robert McKelvey, Esq., J.P., Gortin. The acreage of the grazing ranch in Anghiboy being 537 acres. In the Glensheil division there is a small rural estate, the fields of which are so small that in many instances there are not more than two or three patches in each, and there are no fences of any kind or description on this estate. This rural estate adjoins the grazing tracts above mentioned.

35627. Would the grazing land be invaluable for enlarging the holdings?—It would be very valuable if it could be had on the leasing of this rural estate. There are others as well as this strip of great value if the tenants in these districts could get some of the plots of ground for grazing their sheep and other grazing purposes. They could grow on it from their own farms.

35628. The rural estate is not bought yet by the tenants?—No. The tenants have a long distance to go to their markets, and are extremely badly situated for this purpose, and this remark applies to their meeting railroads. A good deal of the provisions, seeds, and manure are carried from Derry, a distance of twenty-five miles, which adds considerably to the price of these commodities, and is sold very low grown the people go to Co. Down Market, twenty-one or twenty-two miles away. The other towns which are attended by the farmers in this district with farm produce are Newtown Stewart, Drogheda, Dungiven and Omagh; the distance from Newtown Stewart to Drogheda is twenty-three or twenty-four miles, and from Dungiven to Omagh, thirty or thirty-one miles, and these districts lie just between these different places. A considerable number of the holdings in these districts could be greatly improved by enlarging them, and I am of opinion that this would not be a difficult matter if the Congested Districts Board had the matter under control, as there are several holdings which can be used for this purpose, and also a new road and a bridge are urgently required from Leppinaghin right across the river to Carragee Road. With reference to the Mount Hamilton Electoral Division, about one-eighth of it is arable, and is of a very poor class, having been all reclaimed within the last fifty years, and in this case, as in the other divisions, has gone back to its original state owing to the amount of emigration and the costs of labour the number of families in this division has decreased by forty-five in the last thirty years. The scarcity of manual labour has caused a complete change during the past twenty years in the method of labouring the farms in this district. Prior to this time all the work was done by spade labour, which suited the soil, but now the work is done by horse labour, which causes a deterioration of the crop crop by almost half, and formerly a method adopted by the tenants to improve their land was the drawing and burning of lime, but this owing to all the young men going to England and Scotland during the summer season to earn money and send it home, has died out, and I

am of opinion that there is a great necessity of getting an engine or machine at limestone quarries for the purpose of crushing limestone into powder for the use in land instead of the former manner of burning it. None of the holdings in the Electoral Division of Glensheil have been sold under the Land Act of 1903, but in Glenasmole the estate of Mr. Humphreys has at a price equivalent to 24 years' purchase, which, in my opinion, is an exorbitant one, and would not have been agreed to by the tenants at all, I understand, but for the fact that they were loaded down with arrears and they were practically coerced into buying. In the Mount Hamilton Division the tenants there were offered terms under the Arrears Act of 1903, namely to buy at 17 years' purchase, but the demand under the Act of 1903 is now 24 years. Any tenant who would buy at this price would be swamped for all time, or at least as long as the arrears run. The Glensheil Electoral Division the only estate purchased is Coghaghy Glebe, and this was in 1868, under the Irish Church Temporalities Act, and it was sold at 20 years' purchase, but this price was far too high, as a number of the poor tenants had to borrow the fourth of the purchase money for the amount to be paid in cash to the Irish Land Commission, and as a result of paying their arrears on the amount of their purchase money and paying interest to the persons whom they had to borrow from, a number had to sell out and others had to leave and go elsewhere to earn enough money to redeem their farms, as it would be impossible for them by staying in the districts to discharge their liabilities from the profits out of the land.

35629. Mr. O'Kearney.—Did you hear the previous witness?—Yes.

35630. Do you agree as to the views they have expressed as to the utility of the agricultural schemes?—Yes, the land can be very much improved by drainage and fencing.

35631. Kindly tell me as briefly as you can what are the particular schemes put into operation by the local agricultural commission in connection with small concerns in Glensheil?—We have got four lectures.

35632. Enumerate the others?—There are no others.

35633. The valuation of Glensheil is £1,990?—I believe so.

35634. How long are these schemes in operation?—Four years.

35635. You had four lectures?—Yes, this winter.

35636. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What did you pay for your land?—Twenty years' purchase of the old rack rent. It was a very bad bargain. One of the largest farms in the district is lying there. The man who owns it is in America, and the land is going back to its original state.

35637. They bought at that rent and they had to look to other sources to find the one-fourth of the money in hand?—Certainly.

Mr. JOHN DONNELLY examined.

Mr. John Donnell. 35637. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Where do you reside?—At Ballinacallagh, Strabane.

35638. Are you a farmer?—Yes; I have about 75 acres of arable, and a share of an undivided mountain of about 400 or 500 acres. I have a lease for ever. My rent under the lease is £20 Irish, or about £18 10s. sterling. I am not complaining of the rent. The valuation is £47.

35639. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—How do you happen to have a lease for ever?—It was given about 180 years ago by Sir John Stewart Hamilton, who owned the property for three miles below Duna-magah to three miles above Plumbridge. He sold it to his tenants. Each tenant to qualify him to be a freeholder had a lease of three lives, and as Sir John Stewart Hamilton having got into difficulties, he would give them a lease of three lives for ever for £2 or £3, if they paid the attorney's expenses. That is how a great deal of that district is freehold. Some townlands did not do so, thinking that three young lives were good enough. Some other men bought over their heads. Some made well of it. There was one town-

land I know beside Plumbridge where the last life did not die until the year before the 1883 Land Act.

35640. What are the points you wish to bring before us?—These seven electoral divisions that were described to you by Mr. Clarke, your first witness, if they were classified under the Congested Districts Board it would be a great advantage, as they receive practically no assistance from the Committee of Agriculture, a non-elected body.

35641. Mr. O'Kearney.—They are elected with one member?—I don't call that an election. That is a second-hand election.

35642. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Are not they nominated by an elective body?—I don't call that an election; that is a second-hand body.

35643. Mr. O'Kearney.—I am not going to say that I differ from you as all in that view of the elective principle. In fact I would prefer that all our bodies were elected rather than nominated; but you have some kind of objection to a nominated body?—Yes.

35644. You say they are elected second-hand?—Yes.

35645. Tell me now what reasons have you in your mind for making that statement?—The reason of seeing how the Tyrone Committee of Agriculture is

appointed—not one to the district round about me ever being on it that ever I heard of.

32645. Do you think that if you had an elective system that it would be an improvement?—There would be a representative from the poor districts—there is none now.

32647. How is the Local Committee appointed?—I don't know.

32648. All you do know is this: that the district from which you come has no representative?—Not as far as I know; and I may say I think it would be a great help to those wretched divisions of the Plumbridge Dispensary District if they could be scheduled as Congested, to get under the fostering wing of the Congested Districts Board. I have been through Donegal several times; sometimes commercially to buy cattle in Finstown and Dungloe, and at other times on my holidays. The first time I was in Killybegs the railway was opened. I went round by Carrick, posting, and by Glenties and different other roads, and speaking to the people there, any person that I was speaking to, and seeing the results of the improvements in the stock through the Congested Districts Board supplying them with bulls suitable to the district, they were all very well satisfied; and I think it would be a great thing for this mountainous district, we have heard described, if they were under the Congested Districts Board. But unfortunately the Department has taken over the live stock scheme.

32649. Why would you say unfortunately?—Because I don't see how the County Committees are doing half as well as the Congested Districts Board in regard to the live stock schemes, seeing how they were carried out in Donegal.

32650. So you think the way in which the Congested Districts Board has managed the live stock scheme in Donegal is far superior to the way in which the Local Committee has managed the live stock scheme?—In Tyrone.

32651. In what particulars do you discern a difference?—The Live Stock Committee in Tyrone won't give a premium to a Galloway, West Highland or Kerry bull, the class of cattle that would be suited

to this mountainous district that have been described by several witnesses. May 27, 1907.

32652. To what particular class of bull will they give a premium in Tyrone?—Shorthorn and Aberdeen Angus, and the Inspectors of the Department won't pass any unless first-class Crookback Shorthorn.

32653. Do I understand you to suggest that the Galloway, West Highland, and Kerry bulls are most suitable for the poor districts in Tyrone?—Yes, to improve these mountainous districts we have heard described.

32654. The Shorthorn and Polled Angus are more suitable for richer districts?—Yes.

32655. Then would it be a fair inference to draw from that that the County Committee have a predilection in favour of richer districts, as would be suggested by their bringing in the Shorthorns?—Yes. The Committee are all drawn from the richer districts, as far as I know. I don't know the whole Committee. I agree with the evidence that Mr. Micks gave; he instances the district from Drogheda to Strabane, which, I think, he said was as congested as any portion of the County Donegal.

32656. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I believe your recollection is quite right. Do you think yourself that those districts would need pretty much the same class of treatment?—Yes. I know this district; I don't know up by Cookstown. It is from Drogheda I can speak from experience of knowing; it would be a great assistance to these small farmers you have heard described if they were under the fostering wing of the Congested Districts Board, and that the Board had got the management of the Live Stock Scheme. I think Mr. Doan gave you much the same evidence about the mistake the Department made. The Congested Districts Board sent Galloway bulls to mountainous places, and they could find there where others would do. I did not know there would be any reference to a railway, but that would be at the end. Railway from Cookstown to Duncannon would improve the markets at Plumbridge and other places to take the produce away to the ports of Derry and Belfast.

MR. JOHN HARRIS EXAMINED.

32657. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You reside at Belmash, Strabane?—Yes, I represent the Loughach division.

32658. Are you a farmer?—I do a little farming; but I work on butter and eggs. I attend the markets. I reside in the Loughach division. In the very mountainous district of this country, on very hilly land—the greater part of the district is from one mountain to another; it is very high and steep land of very poor quality, mostly of light top the biggest part of it, and the bottom in all is very wet, and needs a great deal of draining.

32659. What are the particular points you wish to submit to the Commission?—In the lowlands if open drains were made and in the upper part of the land if stone drains were made it would improve the land very much.

32660. Are you speaking of arterial drainage or of each holding?—Of each holding.

32661. That is not done by the tenant now?—They are not able to do it. A great many of the tenants are very poor as far as I know. The sons go away, a lot of them. They come into me. The sons go away to America and Scotland and earn money and send it home to their fathers and mothers, and if it was not for that they say they could not live by the land at all.

32662. You think the pressing requirement in the district is improved drainage?—Yes.

32663. Both arterial drainage and field drainage?—Yes. The farmers in our district are a long distance from the market; the nearest market is Strabane, twelve miles away, and Derry is fifteen. They have no conveyance there. They have to rise in the middle of the night when going to the market. Part of the family sit up until two o'clock in the morning to wait those who are going away to market, and they start them to Strabane, and it is the same coming back at night.

32664. What is your suggestion for remedying that difficulty?—I think if they had a light railway it would help them very well. There are some very good limestone quarries in that district. They come from ten to fifteen miles down to this quarry for it; they have to get the limestones all that distance.

32665. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What district are you residing in?—Belmash. I have a place in Strabane as well.

32666. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you buy your eggs and butter?—In different markets. I buy in this town once a week. I go to Plumbridge and Dungannon, Glenties and Strabane.

32667. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You are well acquainted with the want of transit facilities from which the district suffers?—Yes; I am well acquainted with the whole district; from my experience there is a great need of a light railway in this district.

32668. Where would it run from?—From Duncannon to Cookstown would be in a direct line.

32669. How many miles is that?—About thirty miles.

32670. The limestone quarries you merely instance as producing line which the railway could carry and make available in the different parts of the district?—Yes; there is no limestone, but if the railway were available some of the men with these quarries would open a kiln and burn the lime to send away.

32671. How near would the railway come to the quarry?—I expect there would be a station about where the quarry is.

32672. Would you touch Plumbridge and Glencastle?—Yes.

32673. Pass by Gortint?—Yes.

32674. It is a difficult line to engineer?—From Duncannon station it could be made up the valley, it is nearly level; there would be very little cutting.

May 27, 1902.

Mr. William
McGaughey.

Mr. WILLIAM MCGAUGHEY EXAMINED.

38575. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Are you a farmer?—I am a small farmer near Dunamagagh, in the Lough Ash division of Strabane Union. I hold about ten acres. There are six of these arable. The rent is £1 17s. 6d. and the valuation is 35 shillings. The six arable are of very poor quality; we revalued it from the hearth.

38576. Can you use a plough on it?—We can use a plough on part of it; on another part it is difficult to use a plough.

38577. That is done with spade labour?—Yes.

38578. What are the particular points you wish to bring before us?—These holdings are too small; we cannot live on them except there is some means of enlarging them.

38579. Are there any grazing farms in the district in which your farm is?—No, not grazing farms, but farms let out on 11 months' system for cropping and grazing.

38580. What is the nearest that you know of?—There are three within a mile.

38581. Have you any suggestion in your own mind how the holdings could be enlarged?—There would be farms sold by auction in our district, and if the Congested Districts Board have money to buy these farms they could give plots to these small holders. These farms are bought up by large farmers and let out on 11 months' system to the small farmers at exorbitant prices.

38582. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Your suggestion is that some public body might buy up these holdings when they come into the market in order to enlarge the other small holdings?—Yes.

38583. You would not see any advantage in purchasing small holdings?—Any holding that was for sale in this place, even small holdings could be got and added to small holdings already there; it would be a great advantage, but small holders cannot compete with large farmers buying up these holdings, as they are sold by public auction at an over value.

38584. What stock have you on your six acres?—Two cows.

38585. Are you able to sell milk or butter from them?—A little butter. I use some of the butter for the family, and I sell the remainder.

38586. Do you sell the calves?—Yes; I sell them at year-olds.

38587. You keep them for a year?—Yes.

38588. Have you any pigs?—Yes; I keep some pigs,

and a horse, but I may say this, it would not support a horse. We work at other work on the county roads.

38589. You have other employment for the horse besides working on the farm?—Yes; the farm would not support it.

38590. You take contracts on the roads?—Yes.

38591. And you want to suggest it as there is no other way of enlarging the holdings, when one of them comes into the market that then some Government department should be empowered to buy it and divide it among the neighbouring very small holders?—That is my point.

38592. Mr. O'Kell.—The land must be very poor in Lough Ash?—In part of it.

38593. Is the greater part of it?—It is the greater area.

38594. Considering that on the average you have got thirty-six acres for every occupier it follows that the land must be poor?—Yes; the land is poor, the greater part of it was reclaimed from the mountains by the tenants.

38595. Do you think if the land were thoroughly well drained, tilled, and generally brought up to its highest pitch of productivity that you would not want any addition to the holdings?—It does not matter how they are improved, they would want an addition. That neighbourhood is fairly well cultivated. There was an agricultural farm there some time ago and they have a knowledge of agriculture. The father of one of your witnesses, Mr. Moore, was the teacher on the agricultural farm at Lough Ash.

38596. Did not you say a moment ago until the holdings were enlarged it would be impossible for the people to make a living on them?—Because they are too small.

38597. They are thirty-six acres on the average you know?—There are some large farms among them.

38598. What would be the size of the large farms?—120, 100, and 75 acres are the largest.

38599. You suggest if grass land were available it might be acquired for the purpose of enlarging the holdings of the people?—Yes.

38600. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Do you think are there any grass lands of that description that might be acquired?—There are no grass lands in the neighbourhood, except those I speak of as let for cropping and grazing on eleven months' system. I agree with Mr. Moore about the mines. There is a lot of bog which could be utilized, and I also agree about the railway and the line roads.

Mr. ARTHUR O'NEILL EXAMINED.

Mr. Arthur
O'Neill.

38701. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—What is your address?—Carrickmore; I am a farmer. I have a large acreage, 120 acres. We purchased under the Act of 1903. We pay half-yearly instalments. £5 is the yearly payment. The valuation is £9 10s. It is in the Strangeways division of Strabane Union. Nearly all my holding is mountain; there is very little arable. I should say there are forty acres of the mountain not worth a penny a year to me. It is a vast shaking bog. If there could be any use or money made out of peat we could supply a lot of that, as we are surrounded with bog.

38702. What do you do with the rest of your farm?—I farm some of it, but the crops are very poor, and if I had to pay for the labour it would not pay for it.

38703. How many acres have you got under tillage, and arable?—I suppose there might be about sixteen, but it is lying, a great deal of it is waste, with no grass on it of any kind or with bad grass.

38704. What is the point to which you wish to address your evidence; is it in support of the witnesses who preceded you?—Yes; I wish the district to be scheduled under the Congested Districts Board.

38705. You support the proposal for the making of the light railway?—Yes. I support that very much. We are in a backward locality; it takes just twenty-four hours to go to any market and come back again—Strabane or Derry. Everything that we buy costs us very dear, because it has to be carried from these towns. So we have to pay an extra price for it when we get it from the shopkeepers.

38706. If the light railway were made how near would it come to your holding?—I believe it would come to within two miles of it, from Dunamagagh to post Plumbridge by Gortin here.

38707. What kind of a line comes to Dunamagagh?—A narrow gauge.

38708. I thought probably it being a broad gauge was one of the reasons why Mr. Clarke was so strong on the broad gauge to Cookestown?—I wish we had any kind of a gauge.

38709. Where do you get the lime for your land?—We get it in the neighbouring quarry; there is another quarry on the County Derry side.

38710. How far is that from it?—Three miles. Another very important thing is the shirt making industry, and underclothing making. It has failed badly. If we had means of getting it nearer home it has to be carried for a long distance. Our girls work at it; they have to go seven miles to carry the shirts home; it takes them a long summer day, and in the winter it is far worse. It takes them until 10 o'clock at night; if there was a means of fetching them near it would be a great advantage to them.

38711. That again is part of the railway proposal?—The railway area would help that too. Our neighbourhood is all mountains, and keeps a great deal of sheep. I know most of the people would be very glad if there could be anything done in the way of ploughing spaces that would shelter these sheep for them in the winter, because the mountains are very bleak and very bare in the winter time, and they have to send a great many of them grazing to the lower mountains

to keep them alive; they would not live on the mountain grass in the winter. We have to pay very high for it, so that it takes away most of the profit of the sheep from them.

38712. Is your mountain side quite bare?—Yes; May 21, 1887.
there is nothing but black heather, some of it; there is no guard of any kind—just a total bog.
Mr. Arthur
OSHEA.

Mr. P. G. DALLINGER recalled.

38713. Mr. O'KEEFE.—The amount of rates raised in the whole county under the Agricultural and Technical Instruction scheme is £1,350; kindly tell me how much the equivalent grant from the Department of Agriculture amounts to?—Five-sixths as against that; that being represented by four-ninths.

38714. I suppose you were listening to the evidence of Mr. Crawford, the Vice-Chairman of the County Committee at the last sitting at Cookstown?—I had to leave before he gave his evidence.

38715. As far as I can understand he said the amount raised in the rural district was returned to that district; expended under schemes in that district, plus the equivalent grant that the Department gave?—That is so.

38716. In Strabane Union the rates amount to £220, and the equivalent of the Department would be £275, making a total of £495?—Yes.

38717. Upon what scheme has that money been expended?—My figures will have to be a little rough. You have not so much a rather difficult sum, and I propose to simplify it.

38718. I don't think it is in the least difficult. I understood from the Vice-Chairman of your committee that the money raised in the county, plus the equivalent grant from the Department was earmarked for the special benefit of the district in which the money was raised. A penny in the pound in the Strabane Union produces £220; the equivalent would be £275, making a total of £495. I asked you to indicate the special scheme of the Strabane Union upon which the £495 has been expended?—I should like to make it quite clear that the scheme applied to the county, that a scheme in the first place is a county scheme. Second, on the basis of the valuation—of the rural valuation of the district. If the valuation of Strabane is one-tenth of the total valuation of the county we take one-tenth of the grant available as being the share due to Strabane.

38719. And also the proportion of the equivalent grant?—One-tenth of the joint fund. In five shillings in Strabane we make an allocation on horses, £27, which is for nominations; on bulls, £120 to £130; it varies; it may increase. This year we give 55 pounds; last year it was 50; a few years ago the number was 33. The total number of premises in the county will determine what Strabane will get. Strabane gets under the Swine scheme, £35; under the Turkey and Goose scheme £2 and £10; under the cottage farm prize scheme we allocate £40 for prizes.

38720. Do you think really it is a wise thing to offer prizes for competition amongst men with a valuation of over £25?—Any scheme that is educative is valuable.

38721. Would not you expect a man whose valuation is over £25 would scarcely be expected to need an incentive of a prize for cleanliness, as compared with people of small valuation, say, £4 or £5?—The proportion of money given to the men having £25 valuation is comparatively small.

38722. I beg your pardon?—There is only one class for them; there are six classes altogether. In regard to the agricultural instruction how do you propose that we should allocate the money expended on it?

38723. Bear in mind I am not going to make any suggestion one way or the other as to how it should be expended; but I merely ask you as secretary of the agricultural committee whether you agree with or differ from the view expressed by your vice-chairman in Cookstown on Saturday, that the amount raised in any particular district, plus the equivalent that is given by the Department of Agriculture, was returned in that district and spent on specific schemes in the district for the benefit of that district alone?—I agree with that, but I should like, if you will excuse me, to explain what the terms used mean to me; by a district I mean a rural district.

38724. So do I?—Then it is perfectly true. Let us take the valuation of the county, for the sake of example, at £100,000. For convenience we will say that the valuation of Strabane is £5,000. Then

£500 or sixth of the funds available represent Strabane's share of the Joint Fund. That is expended in Strabane.

38725. Would I be right in saying that there are districts in the County Tyrone in which there is a scheme on which money has been expended far in excess of the sum that has resulted from the penny in the pound rate for agricultural instruction?—It is impossible.

38726. Why?—Because the basis of our expenditure is the rate.

38727. I know it is. Would I be right in suggesting that money has been expended in certain rural districts on schemes for those particular rural districts in excess of the rates for those particular districts—the excess coming from the other rural districts?—I think that on the whole—

38728. Would I be right in suggesting that it is possible that it is so?—I do not think it would be. I am not prepared to give an answer to that on oath, but I do not think it would. Of course it is a matter which to settle would need an immensity of figuring. I am prepared to undertake that calculation if you want it. I am not prepared to give an answer on that point, but I do not think that it would really work out that it is so. In special cases grants have been received from the Department for special purposes; that is entirely outside the county grant, and never out of the county's penny. Therefore what may have been expended in that way must not be taken into account; but to say that money has been diverted from one district to another, that schemes might be worked in that district, is absolutely untrue.

38729. I think you said you would be prepared to work this out for us. I repeat it as of some importance?—Will you specify the scheme?

38730. I will make the suggestion to you, but not now. Reference has been made to agricultural shows. In these shows are there any special competitions for small occupiers under £15 or £20 valuation?—There has been a sum of £30 set aside entirely without any entrance fee for the occupiers of those districts which you are to-day considering—Pinnacridge and all round there—for these people, free of charge; they had nothing to pay.

38731. What was the particular competition?—Competition for cattle and poultry, and in some cases they were varied to introduce classes for horses and swine. I heard one witness to-day say that it was not worth a man's while to go in and get the prizes. I don't know whether it is worth a man's while to walk from Gortin to Omagh for £2. All I know is that I would.

38732. That scheme failed?—That scheme failed, although the County Committee advertised the scheme at their own expense.

38733. At the expense of the county?—Yes, out of the joint fund.

38734. How long was the scheme tried?—For two years; in fact it was tried tentatively for three years. The scheme I referred to was tried actually for two years, but it was tried in a tentative way for the other year.

38735. How many entries had you for these competitions?—Never more than three or four, although they got into the show free.

38736. What was the amount set aside for these competitions?—£30.

38737. For people under £15?—The classes were provided for the districts which are the very poorest.

38738. What was the valuation specified?—I am not prepared to state whether £20 was the limit. I think it was.

38739. You gave prizes amounting to £30 for £10 valuation, and stopped there?—Yes, and no one came to take them.

38740. All the other competitions were thrown open to people under £50 valuation?—Erroneous, no. We always insist on one for from £20 to £25. Dungannon show will be on in about five days. They have even lowered the valuation. Originally they were £20. I understand they are lowering the valuation again

Mr. P. G.
Dallinger.

Aug 27, 1907

Mr. P. G.
Dallagan.

This year to meet the special class of farmers, about £15.

38741. Did you hear the evidence given this afternoon?—Yes.

38742. You don't agree with that evidence?—I don't know whether I may be allowed to point out without impertinence that the questions which you have asked the witnesses this afternoon are not fair questions. Without meaning in any sense to insinuate you intend to put unfair questions, I say such questions cannot be fully answered by the witnesses. These people have referred to the cattle. The district you are dealing with is not a cattle-breeding district; it is a sheep district; everyone knows it. You have laid emphasis on the cattle. What about the eggs sent in from our egg distributing stations, a large number of which come into this very district. There is an egg distributing station in this very centre. Another point made is that the committee are not permitting suitable bulls to come in. It has been stated that the Galloway bull have been prevented from coming into this district. It was also stated that we allow only Aberdeen Angus and Shorthorn. As a matter of fact we also recommend Arran. The county committee has actually recommended that Galloway bulls be permitted to hold premiums in the county, but for some reasons, which I understand to be wise reasons, the Department say they cannot permit the Galloway bull to hold a premium in this county, as they considered it would do harm. I hold a brief for no one, but I think that it should be definitely stated that a man who sits down in this chair and tells you that one bullock that has been produced under the premium scheme has been a failure, is not representing in any sense the total amount of the work that has been done in the district.

38743. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would you yourself approve of the Department overriding the committee's judgment in the matter of the Galloway bulls?—I am not an expert in these matters; but in my own private opinion the Galloway would do great good in certain limited districts in this county, but if the Department were to introduce a Galloway bull and that bull were used generally it would do harm to the export trade, and it will be within the knowledge of this Commission that in this county bulls have been sold to the Argentine for very large prices.

38744. Has there been anything done for sheep in these poor districts?—Nothing.

38745. Mr. O'Kearney.—Permit me to say in reply to what you have said that all my questions were perfectly fair and legitimate, and it is quite competent for me to ask a witness whether he saw any tangible results for any scheme for which his money, in the shape of rates, had been contributed, and it was perfectly competent for him to answer. It was perfectly competent for me to ask him on all those subjects, and let me say in reply to your suggestion that I was not referring to any particular kind of scheme—I was not referring to the improvement of stock, or referring to itinerant lectures or any other things. I was just asking this question whether as a result

of four years' experience of the working of the Committee of Agriculture in his district he was satisfied that any results had accrued from it; and let me say also, I hope, without impertinence, that it was not an unfair question for me to ask, and I intend, despite the admonition administered to me by you, by inference, to put quite similar questions in future to all those witnesses who I think may be able to speak upon the subject?—You have misunderstood me. I don't doubt your right to put the questions; I doubt the competency of the witnesses to answer them.

38746. The witness is quite competent to pay rates to maintain your committee, but incompetent to express an opinion on the results that flow from it. Certainly he cannot know what is done in any rural district completely.

38747. Of course he cannot; he lives there; and why could not he know what is doing in his own district? Do you mean to say that a man living in Strabane does not know more about the rural district than a secretary not living in Strabane, and who might not be there once in twelve months?—That does not apply to me.

38748. It is physically impossible for you!—All these things depend on records. I have a record of every egg that ever went out in the county, and every bull that ever sired a cow in the county.

38749. Quite so; the wider your knowledge on these subjects the narrower your knowledge of local conditions. The question is perfectly relevant and the witness is perfectly competent to answer it?—My dear sir, if I may be allowed for saying so, is merely to arrive at the truth. I hold no brief.

38750. You won't arrive at the truth by denying the competency of other people to speak the truth?—I do not doubt their desire to speak the truth, but I do doubt their knowledge of the benefits that accrue to an entire district.

38751. Did you hear the evidence in Cookstown?—Yes.

38752. Did you hear the evidence here?—Yes.

38753. Did you read the evidence given in Antrim?—Yes.

38754. Was not it all one chorus of denunciation of the way in which these committees are administered; do you suppose this chorus of denunciation has no reason in fact? Why don't you put up some men on behalf of the local committee to give evidence to the contrary; you would not be able to try down the evidence of the men of local knowledge by saying they are not telling the truth?—I never attempted to say that.

38755. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—I don't think the witness said that?—I did not say that. Excuse me, my object is, although it may not so appear to you, to get at the truth; that is the whole idea I have in my mind. My idea is that you should not when introducing an educational system consult those who are submitting to the system whether they approve of it, especially where their knowledge of its aims is incomplete.

38756. Surely your educational scheme is four years in operation?—What is four years in the life of a nation? It is a negligible quantity.

38757. That is a political platitude?—It is a matter of history.

The Commission adjourned.

SEVENTY-SEVENTH PUBLIC SITTING.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29TH, 1907.

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.,

In the Schoolhouse, Swandilbar, County Cavan.

Present:—The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, O.C.B. (in the Chair); Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL;
CONOR O'KEILY, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

AND WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Rev. PATRICK O'BRIEN CRIBBED.

38758. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT (to the clerk).—You are Parish Priest of Kinnawley, Swandilbar?—Yes. One-third of my parish is in the County Cavan and the remainder in Fermanagh. The state of things in both divisions of my parish is much the same. The neighbourhood is surrounded by mountains. They commence at Ballinacorney and come down to the Cullough mountains. The land along those mountains is cold and boggy. A great deal of it is reclaimed bog.

38759. Are those the mountains that we saw during the last five miles of our journey from Banmuckish here?—Yes. The climate is cold. Once milch or over ripe. They are given as fodder for the cattle. The potato crop is sometimes fairly good, but the quality of the potato is much inferior to what you find in other parts of the county. I do not want to occupy your time dwelling on the poverty of the district, but it is enough to say that two or three years ago the Government were obliged to give relief to the poor of Swandilbar and the district. They got up a system of relief works, and it was in that way that the people toiled over the hard season.

38760. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Was there a failure of the potato crop?—Yes. Whenever we have a cold season we have a failure of the potato and oat crops, which are the staple crops by which the people live.

38761. What is the principal factor in a bad year?—Wet. When we have a good dry year we have a fairly good crop. There are many ways in which the condition of the people might be improved. If we had such a system as they have at Ballinacorney it would be very beneficial.

38762. What is that system?—Advancing small sums for making repairs to people's houses, road-making, getting up little creameries, and so on.

38763. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Have you no creameries in the neighbourhood?—Yes; we have three; we have a central creamery and two auxiliaries, but owing to the fact that a great many people live on the mountains they cannot bring their milk to the creameries, as the roads don't go near enough to their houses.

38764. The particular point you are now on is that you would like some improved communication in the way of a road up the mountain side?—Precisely; and some money advanced to the farmers to improve the side of their houses.

38765. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are you acquainted with the method by which this has been done in the congested districts?—Yes.

38766. You are aware that the Congested Districts Board encourage the establishment of local committees to whom they make small grants for improvements?—Yes.

38767. It is something like that you advocate?—Yes. I think it is the only way I have known Government money to do much good.

38768. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Are the roads to these mountain farmers' places non-existent, or bad?—Some of them have by-passes or lanes; others have no lanes at all, and have to go across the country to get to roads.

38769. A cart could not go there?—No. We have been for a long time agitating about a short railway from Bawnboy to Maguirebridge, round Bawnboy

Lake, and on by this town. It was surveyed and mapped out by the Government I understand, but it fell through, for what reason I cannot tell, but I would regard it as a principal means of relieving distress. It would give some temporary employment in the first place. In the next place it would give great help towards developing the resources of the neighbourhood. The proposed railway would pass close to the three creameries which we have; and the result would be we would get better prices for our butter and other agricultural produce.

38770. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—How many miles would the proposed railway extend?—It is twenty-two miles from Bawnboy to Maguirebridge, and about ten or twelve from Bawnboy to Florence Court. Either line would suit us, and help to develop the district. We have many spas which were famous in the 18th century, but they have lost ground owing to the want of railway communication.

38771. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What is the nature of these?—Sulphur spas and magnesia. There is one adjoining the town, which they call a steel one. There is no better water.

38772. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Are they in use now?—Yes; but we have very few persons coming to partake of them.

38773. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are the holdings very small?—In Kinnawley there are 5,770 holdings. 1,068 are not exceeding 64 valuation; 1,247 not exceeding 110; 639 are between 110 and 135; 2,355 are between 130 and 150, and there are 95 not exceeding 1100.

38774. In these any local industry of any sort?—We have a lace class and three creameries.

38775. The lace classes are entirely for girls?—Yes.

38776. Is the attendance large?—We have about sixty on the roll—probably an average attendance of twenty or thirty.

38777. Is there room for more, or is that the full number that the teacher could take?—There would not be room for any more, but I don't think that that is the reason why they are not coming. We are able to accommodate all who wish to avail themselves of it.

38778. I suppose that the wages are from five to seven shillings a week?—About that.

38779. Has there been much emigration from your district?—A great deal.

38780. Do the people emigrate to America or go to Scotland?—A great many go to Glasgow, but the bulk of them go to America.

38781. Do those who go to Glasgow go there year after year or come back again?—Very often they remain there permanently.

38782. Who owns the greatest amount of land in your vicinity?—Probably Lord Ems. He has his property, not in this division of the parish, but in the Fermanagh portion of it.

38783. Has he any residence here?—No residence, no local office, nor anything.

38784. Is his agent resident?—No; he lives at Lissadown or Dublin most of the time. He is Mr. Arthur Trevel.

38785. Mr. O'Keily.—I notice that over 55 per cent. of the holdings in Swandilbar division are under 110 valuation. I suppose that your parish is included in Swandilbar?—Yes.

May 29, 1907.

Rev. Patrick O'Brien.

May 29, 1907.

Rev Patrick O'Reilly

38703. What is the average size of the holdings, approximately?—I have not gone into the figures, but they vary considerably.

38704. Would you regard holdings under £10 valuation as uneconomic?—I would, certainly.

38705. In the electoral division of Swinlinbar over 50 per cent. of the holdings are uneconomic; how would you suggest that they should be made economic?—I don't know exactly how to answer that question. There is very little land in the neighbourhood that is not occupied. There are a few holdings belonging to Mr. Johnston, who is an agent in this district, living in Bawnboy, and if these were divided among the adjoining tenants it would help their means of living.

38706. You know Bawnboy fairly well?—Yes.

38707. Taking every holding under £10 valuation as uneconomic, you have in the whole union 53 per cent. of uneconomic holdings. Is there any land available held under what is generally known as the eleven months' system in the union of Bawnboy?—I cannot say that. I am not able to speak as to land of that description outside my own parish.

38708. Then you see no hope for the improvement of these uneconomic holdings by a process of enlargement of them?—No, except where there were such farms as you refer to in the vicinity.

38709. But you have not got any in this parish?—No.

38710. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Roughly, what extent of land is there in the district that you say could be divided among the people?—In one of these farms there are thirty, and in another twenty-seven Irish acres. In the Fermanagh portion of the parish there are a few large farms that could be divided among the people.

38711. Mr. O'REILLY.—How are those farms at present held?—By the landlord. As a rule he stocks them himself.

38712. Have you any non-residential grazing holdings in Bawnboy Union?—There is one large holding

close to Bawnboy that was divided recently. It was divided among several tenants through the Estates Commissioners.

38713. It is impossible to assist the uneconomic holders because you have no grazing land for the purpose of enlargement, could you indicate in what direction you must look for an improvement in the condition of the small holders?—If they had a better price for their produce the people could improve their holdings very much. When people are poor, and get a small price for their produce there is no encouragement for them to improve. If they had the railway that I refer to I am sure it would help them greatly in managing their holdings.

38714. A railway to Maguire's Bridge?—Yes, or to Fivemiletown.

38715. Is that part of the scheme which was proposed in Parliament some time ago?—Yes. Mr. Thomas McGovern, our late M.P., took a great interest in it. At one time we seemed very likely to get it. Mr. Wyndham was very favourable to it. Some of the Nationalist party wanted to have the dissection postponed, and Mr. Wyndham made the significant remark "delays are dangerous."

38716. Am I right in saying that the opposition to that scheme arose from the fact that it would divert traffic from Sligo to Newry?—It arose from selfishness, of course. I suppose it would divert some traffic.

38717. The proposal was, as I understood it, that the mines of Arigna would be developed by an extension of the railway?—Precisely.

38718. But that the coal taken from Arigna, instead of being sent to the nearest port, Sligo, would be diverted across the country to Newry?—I suppose that was the ground of the opposition.

38719. But merely recommending the construction of this section of railway without seeking to carry out the entire of the former scheme would not arouse the same opposition?—Not to such an extent.

Mr. HERMAN M'MANUS examined.

Mr. Bernard M'Manus.

38802. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are Chairman of the Bawnboy Rural District Council?—Yes. I represent the Fodravahers electoral division on the Council. I know the Bawnboy Rural District fairly well, particularly that portion comprised in the Swinlinbar disjunctive district, which is mainly mountainous. The land is of an inferior quality. In some portions of the district land purchase sales under the Ashbourne Acts have taken place, and the prices agreed on were fifteen years' purchase, but now landlords, when negotiating, want from twenty-four to twenty-six years' purchase.

38803. Who is the landlord?—Lord Charles Beresford.

38804. Land has been bought in this district under the Ashbourne Acts at fifteen years' purchase?—Yes.

38805. Are these negotiations now in progress with the tenants of Lord Charles Beresford for the purchase by them of their land in the Bawnboy Union?—Yes.

38806. How far have these negotiations proceeded?—I have it on very good authority that the landlord expects twenty-four years' purchase.

38807. That is on second-hand report?—Yes.

38808. Has an offer been made by the tenants or have they merely felt their way and stopped?—They will not buy at that price, because they believe that the taxes will be far heavier, and there will be drainage to be paid for, and all will fall on the shoulders of the tenants.

38809. You don't know if they have made him any offer?—Not to my knowledge. Then Mr. Tyrrell is a landlord in this district, and what he intends to give is 4s. in the £ on judicial and 6s. on non-judicial rents. Some of the tenants could not go into court owing to the amount of arrears against them.

38810. Mr. STURTELL.—Did these people get any reductions at all from the landlords?—No.

38811. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—He would now sell for a price calculated on a reduction of 6s. in the £ on unfenced moor?—Yes.

38812. That covers arrears?—I suppose it would. That would be in the bargain. There is a great deal of drainage money to be paid, and the tenants expect that it would fall on their shoulders.

38813. Was that part of the terms?—They did not come so close.

38814. Then they had better ask what the offer means?—I suppose so.

38815. Mr. STURTELL.—Does it mean the repayment of loans already made for drainage?—Yes. In the electoral divisions of Benbrack, Fodravahers, Templeport, Kinawley, Swinlinbar, and Troughshill the people are living on uneconomic holdings, and the Government were obliged to establish relief works.

38816. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When was that?—It is going on for over twenty years. About two years ago, as representing the Bawnboy District Council on the County Council, I applied to have the 12th section of the Local Government Act put into operation. The County Council when they heard of the poverty of the district willingly did so, and contributed. Last year or the year before a loan for seed potatoes had to be obtained. An inspector from the Local Government Board came to the place, and went from house to house, and found there was such want there that he got a grant of £250 from the Government for the purpose of buying seed potatoes, and the men worked at 14d. per day; these were the best of the men, because some would not be taken—so earn the price of the potatoes. Only for that I do not believe that they would be seeded this year at all.

38817. Who hired these men?—It was understood it was the Local Government Board inspector and the committee appointed. Seed potatoes were given in lieu of money.

38818. The men who worked were paid in seed potatoes?—Yes.

38819. Were they paid for getting seed into their own ground?—No. They were paid for making roads. It was something similar to what Father O'Reilly wants done in these mountainous parts. The people are willing to work away at such a thing if they only get payment for it. I know of a good deal of artificial manure being brought from the Department to certain plots and left there, with the object of showing what it can do. That does very well for a year or two, but I don't believe that it is as good for the future as drainage, and also planting, as otherwise timber will

soon be a thing of the past in the country. The landlords are selling their property, and the timber is nearly all cut away, and there is no shelter.

38820. I am afraid that the timber is rather cut away by the small holders who buy it—it was the landlords owned the woods and had the timber. Therefore the tenants could not cut them.

38821. They can when they purchase their holdings?—The landlords in this part of the country sell their woods before they sell their estates.

38822. You say the landlords cut their woods before they sell their lands?—Yes. It has been done on Lord Charles Somerset's property in this district.

38823. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are extensive woods on an estate an element in the price which the tenants pay to the landlord?—They are.

38824. As a matter of fact, does a wooded estate bring a greater number of years purchase than one without woods?—The wood belongs to the landlord, because the landlord keeps it.

38825. He retains it after he sells his land?—As far as I know.

38826. Mr. KATYAGH.—Did you ever know of a case in which the timber was retained when the estate was sold?—This country is not so well wooded.

38827. You say that timber is retained by the landlord when he sells his estate—did you ever know of such a case?—I am not sure of that. I thought there was a case at Garsdale.

Mr. KATYAGH.—I never heard of such a case.

38828. Mr. O'KEEFE.—I never heard of such a case?—I know it is being cut down at present. I believe that there is nothing more beneficial than draining the country and making roads.

38829. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You refer to extensive drainage of the whole country, and then the owners of the farms should drain their own fields into the one central drain?—It is the big drains that I mean. My next point is that there should be plantations.

38830. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Do you mean shelter belts or planting the whole hillside?—Belts in each farmer's place. If you like only an acre or even a half acre.

38831. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Have you any practical suggestion to make as to that?—Except that the Agricultural Department should supply the plants. Some of the land is not very good. Farmers would not raise an acre, and it would leave the country very sheltered.

38832. It would have to be enclosed for a number of years and cut off from pasture?—Even so; in twenty years it would be of some value.

38833. Mr. KATYAGH.—You think it would be useful if young trees were supplied at a nominal price by the Agricultural Board if the farmers planted them themselves?—I believe they would.

38834. Just for shelter belts?—I don't refer to large shelter belts—I believe they would. A great deal of land is not fit to grow crops that is fit to grow timber.

38835. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is there any particular kind of tree for which you have a preference?—Larch and spruce.

38836. There is a market always for larch?—Yes, splendid.

38837. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Can you always sell larch wood?—Yes. It is getting very scarce in this country now. With regard to the railway, I would be glad to see a railway from Bewsey to Florencecourt. Maguinnessbridge is a light railway, and there would be no transshipment there. Even so, Florencecourt would be shorter.

38838. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You say that properties were sold under the Ashbourne Act in this neighbourhood at fifteen years' purchase?—Yes; fifteen and sixteen.

38839. Were there many sold under the Ashbourne Act?—There were a great many in the upper part of the Bewsey Rural District.

38840. It has been suggested in some quarters that only embarrassed landlords sold under the Ashbourne Act; would the description "embarrassed landlords" apply to those who sold under that Act in this district?—I cannot say what was the cause of their selling.

38841. Have there been many sales under the 1903 Act in Cavan?—There have been a good many.

38842. At what price have the lands been sold under that Act in the County Cavan?—They vary greatly. In some cases I believe that twenty-one years' purchase has been given.

38843. Have the landlords sold at twenty-one years' purchase of second-term rental?—I believe so.

38844. From fifteen to twenty-one years' purchase is no small increase?—It is not, and then there are several reductions.

38845. Under the Ashbourne Act the tenants bought on first-term rental?—Some of them bought before rents were fixed at all.

38846. Would it be right in suggesting that in the County Cavan landlords have asked twenty-one years' purchase on first-term rental?—I am not so sure about it. Other gentlemen will be able to describe it.

38847. Let us assume that they did, because I have some case in my mind, would you see any justification for demanding twenty-one years' purchase under the Act of 1903 when under the Ashbourne Act the price was fifteen or sixteen years' purchase?—No.

38848. Markets have not improved recently?—No.

38849. And agricultural produce has not gone up in price?—No. It is reduced.

38850. The conditions are practically the same?—If anything the land is not supporting so many as formerly. The crops are not so good.

38851. Could you tell me what sum has been deducted from the local bodies in respect of loss occasioned by flotation of the Land Stock?—I don't know the amount.

38852. Considering that the ratepayers of the county are the ultimate security for any loss occasioned by the operation of the Act of 1903, do you think that the County Council should have a voice in connection with sale and purchase?—Certainly, I believe that they should.

38853. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You mean that the County Council should have a veto on the price accepted by the tenants if they thought it so high that the security could not be paid on it?—Yes, and even if the Estates Commissioners were brought in and it was left to them far often than it is it would be much better.

38854. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Then the tenants themselves do undertake to high a price?—Tenants with a lead of arrears round their necks often give a price that the Estates Commissioners would not give.

38855. Are the arrears used as a means of obtaining a higher price from the tenants?—The arrears are always brought into the argument in the fixing of the price. The landlord always says he will throw off so much arrears to try to get his price.

38856. In this matter of the arrears the cause of the increase of the price of land from 15 to 24 years' purchase that you have referred to?—It is part of it.

38857. What is the other cause; is land more valuable now than then?—It is not more valuable, but a great many men wishing to become owners of their land often give more for it than it is worth.

38858. How will ownership compensate them?—Very often they can make improvements.

38859. You have had that since 1881?—Yes, but there is a mountain district with a great deal of land to be reclaimed that the landlord would not allow to be reclaimed owing to the reserved bits that he had on it.

38860. That stopped improvement?—It stopped it greatly.

38861. What motive could a landlord have for preventing the reclamation of his own property?—In some of these places the landlord would not allow a crane to be sold even to help to pay the year's rent. There is a process which will be heard soon before the judge in Cavan against a tenant for selling a crane of fact to another tenant for the purpose of paying rent.

38862. Mr. KATYAGH.—Do you suggest that a property with large arrears fetches a higher price than a property where the rent is well paid?—If the arrears were thrown off I believe it would.

38863. You have suggested to Mr. Sutherland that a larger price is extracted from those tenants than if they had paid up well?—Yes, I suggest that when arrears are thrown off they will give more for it.

38864. Do you know any case in which a property with large arrears has fetched a higher price than a property on which the rent is well paid?—Every day you can read in the papers about where so much arrears would be thrown off if they bought at so much.

38865. I ask you whether you know of any case in which property with heavy arrears fetched more

May 14, 1907.

Mr. DONALD-M'NORMAN.

May 29, 1907. then property on which the rent was well paid!—
Not exactly one.

38866. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You don't know of any case in which arrears had been used on a lever to induce tenants to agree to a very high price?—Not one property, but it is done every day.

38867. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—General arrears on an

estate is not a common thing. It is individuals who will be in arrears!—On some estates arrears are more general than on others.

38868. But it greatly depends on individuals!—
Yes.

38869. So it might be used against an individual?—
Yes.

Rev. THOMAS MCGURAN examined.

For THOMAS
MCGURAN.

38870. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You are parish priest of Killybegh, County Cavan?—Yes. Enniskillen Rural District No. 2 comprises an area of 45,867 acres. Its gross valuation is 22,383, with a population of 6,397. This is the figure for 1903. In the above area is included what is known by the name of the Morley estate, consisting of over 15,000 acres; valuation 25,801; purchased over the heads of the tenants by the former agent, Robert Johnsons, 26th November, 1901, for the sum of £23,692, and conveyed on lease date to a syndicate for the consideration of ten shillings; and let us add that at the time of this transaction the estate was laden with £17,000 arrears. The lands are the worst of the worst quality, the soil consisting of yellow "clank" with a mixture of sand rancour to the health of cattle and crops. Anything that might be called land is at present under the bullock, the people having been banished in and after the famine years to the mountains and foreign lands. Any observer may see for himself and witness the marks of poverty all around—the people half fed, half clad; the children degenerate, and the surface of the country itself a barren wilderness. As soon as the youth of the country are able to provide for themselves they fly off to America, England, and Scotland, thus leaving the aged, and young children to look after the home with the following results:—The lands are not tilled as much as they should be, the children are not sent to school, all depend for support on credit given by the local shopkeepers writing the "American dollar"; with the further result that they become loaded with debt, and if the shopkeeper refuse there is nothing before them but the emigrant ship or the workhouse. The necessity of having the district scheduled under the Congested Districts Board is evident, and its first claim is the general poverty of the people; and why it was not scheduled from the start is, if we are correctly informed, due to the action of Lord Belmore, the then Chairman of Enniskillen Board of Guardians. Again, though the population seems small in proportion to the area, yet it should be remembered that almost the half of the parish of Killybegh, and especially what is called the good lands, is in the hands of the graziers, and bullocks are the occupiers instead of the people. To remedy all this we suggest the district be scheduled as congested, the Congested Districts Board to get compulsory powers and increased revenue, a representative for County Cavan on the Board, and that they might utilize the uneconomic holdings, migrate the people to the good lands, form Parish Committees to make the houses habitable, repair the fences, drain the lands, assist to make roads, and plant the useless land. In proof of these statements I refer to the average valuation of the following townlands in the parish of Killybegh:—Moneenacilly, 63 6s. 3d.; Derraneer, 23 6s. 6d.; Stranmore, 62 17s. I also give a list of the gross farms in the district, giving the names of the owners, the place where the farm is situated, and the valuation.—Mrs. Fawcett, Tamm, 2662 15s.; Mrs. Fawcett, Loughan, 290 10s.; Mrs. Fawcett, Roe, 460; Mrs. Fawcett, Carrickstown, 240; John Nixon, Kinsale, 268 10s.; John Nixon, Mullaghoe, 243 17s.; John Nixon, Dunsfield, 224 10s.; John Nixon, Killyglannon, 224; Wm. Carson, Carracashel, 466; Wm. Carson, Tullaghmore, 240; Wm. Carson, Cooracashel, 232 10s.; Wm. Carson, Strathmore, 237 10s.; Wm. Carson, Tullinacree, 210; Wm. Carson, Carracree, 215 5s.; Hugh Maguire, Port, 286 5s.; Hugh Maguire, Killycree, 238 15s.; Anthony Cassidy, Mennen, 282 5s.; Anthony Cassidy, Okeela, 212 5s.; Thos. Carracree, Barran, 248 10s.; Miss Nixon, Uplid, 232 10s.; Henry Cullen, Terrie, 230; J. O. Dolan, Temoe, 230; Tom Patterson, Unabegh, 215; J. Bracken, Barren, 242; C.

Bracken, Tarr, 253 10s.; and Jane Tubran, Barren, 29 15s. All these lands are under bullocks.

38871. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Do you say that the land on those farms is not tilled to any extent?—None of it.

38872. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You don't know the total acreage of those farms you have mentioned?—I have not made the lot, but I have read out the valuation.

38873. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—None of these gross farms are tilled?—No. They are all grass farms. They are in Enniskillen No. 2 Rural District and in the parish of Killybegh.

38874. Mr. O'KEEFE.—In that parish I see that 92 per cent. of the holdings are under £10 valuations?—I should think so.

38875. How are the grazing ranches let?—They are stocked by the owners.

38876. What would be the average size of the large grazing farms?—I did not calculate that. I suppose it would be from 50 to 100.

38877. Are they the home farms of the occupiers?—Not at all. The people were evicted off these farms, and they were added patch by patch to make ranches. They are held by yearly rent.

38878. Are they judicial tenancies?—Very few of them.

38879. They are non-residential grazing farms?—Yes. The owners live on their residential farms, and lease these ranches for the purpose of grazing their bullocks and sheep.

38880. They have residential farms, and take these in addition?—Yes; they added patch after patch to them; small farms that were cleared in 1845 or 1847.

38881. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—In the case of each occupier whose name has been given by you would it be true to say that the occupier does not reside on the farm with which you have connected the occupier's name?—Perfectly right; none of them reside on the farm with the exception of two or three.

38882. Mr. O'KEEFE.—What would be the average distance between the residential and the non-residential farms?—In some cases it might not be a quarter of a mile. In other cases it would be two, three, four, or even nine miles.

38883. It is essential to get hold of these non-residential grass lands if the small holdings are to be raised to an economic standard?—I don't see any other remedy.

38884. What is your view as to the possibility of getting these lands under a system of voluntary sale and purchase?—My expectation is this, that when the Estates Commissioners buy over this estate known as the Morley estate they will have to get all or none.

38885. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Is this all on the Morley estate?—Not all, but the greater part of it. It will be in their power to dispose of them if they are willing to let them go.

38886. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What has the syndicate done with the property?—The property has been inspected by two inspectors from the Estates Commissioners. Their report has gone in. After a month or so it will be presented to the Estates Commissioners, and they will consider if they are prepared to make an offer for the estate.

38887. At whose suggestion has the inspection been made?—At the suggestion of the Estates Commissioners.

38888. Have there been negotiations between the tenants and the syndicate?—Yes.

38889. How far have they come together?—They have culminated in what I have told you. In the month of June it will be brought under consideration. It is rather a long story to go into details.

38890. I am sure that details will not be required, but it would be interesting to know how it has come about that the estate has been inspected?—This case

turned up in the superior courts when they wanted to make the tenants acknowledge the sale to the syndicate. It came before Chief Justice O'Brien. Mr. Healy represented the tenants and Mr. Henry represented the syndicate. After hearing portions of the case his lordship said that it was a very complicated case and suggested that Mr. Healy and Mr. Henry, the counsel for the two sides, should be appointed arbitrators. This suggestion was accepted, and after some time these arbitrators came on the estate and inquired into it, at a certain point an avowal that the people were to buy at a certain number of years purchase. They awarded all the gross farms in the avowal. They people kept their part of the contract, and paid a year's rent. The number of years the people accepted the sale and agreement for purchase. When the agreements came to be examined into by the Estates Commissioners the Estates Commissioners refused to declare the property an estate, and so ended the negotiations.

38821. Mr. O'Kear.—The Morley estate is not scheduled, but is fit to be scheduled?—I would think so, seeing the number of the small farms and the great farms on the other side.

38892. The only way you can make these small holdings economic is by enlarging them from the areas lands adjoining!—So I should think.

32803. What was the reason urged for excluding the grass lands from the settlement?—They said they did not give power to the arbitrators to touch them at all. They wanted to retain them and make more money from them.

28894. In your view it would have been wise if they had been included in the original settlement?—Yes.

38806. If there was any possibility of the condition of the small octopuses being improved?—Yes.

38296. There are other grass farms besides those on the Morley estate in the same rural district?—Yes.

1887. Do you think it possible to acquire them voluntarily from those who now own them?—No.

33399. We are all agreed that it is very desirable that congestion should cease?—Yes; if the people are to stop in the country.

33890. Do you think it is possible to put an end to corruption until you have compulsory powers of purchase?—It is not possible without compulsory powers.

32200. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—What you mean is that it is not possible at a price which the tenants would pay; I suppose that the lands could be bought at a price?—They could, but I believe that many owners would not give them up without compulsion, no matter what price they were offered.

28901. Mr. H. W. Dr. O'Donnell.—Take a property such as the Morley estate, on which, according to your account, there are so many small holdings, and at the same time grazing ranches that might be used for the enlargement of small holdings; in circumstances such as those would not you consider that the proper method of sale should not be direct to the tenants at all but from the owners to the Estates Commissioners?—Yes, certainly.

Mr. PATRICK DOLAN examined.

32015. Sir FRANKLIN MOWAT.—You are a member of the County Council of the County of Nova, and reside at Blackton?—Yes. I wish to describe the condition of the Municipality Number 2 Rural District. The poverty in this district is due primarily to the sterility of the soil, and the excessive rents imposed on the tenants in days gone by. Some thirty years ago numbers of ex-landlords of this district became absentee, and their lands were sold in parcels, and subsequently their lands were sold in parcels, and were purchased by wealthy graziers and other landlords, who composed stiffly with each other, knowing they could extract from the poor tenants high interest for their money. On one estate in this district the purchaser, when he became landlord doubled the rents on the tenants, living along the northern slope of Collingh mountain, and the same thing was practised on the entire property, except in few cases. In 1861 the tenants had to consent to pay two years of arduous rent as once to the owner of the property, before they could get under the Government. If not their houses would come down. In almost all cases they had to draw it out of the Bank on the security of some friend. This weighs heavily on the poor peasantry till the present time. The people could not

20002. Would not you consider that the whole property should be sold to the Estate Commissioners?

38903. That is to say the landlord's interest in the whole amount.

28904. If the whole property were sold by the syndicate to the Estates Commissioners than the Estates Commissioners could utilise the grant lands to enlarge small holdings before conveying these small holdings to the tenants.

38905. Don't you think that the small holdings ought not to be conveyed to the occupiers until such land as is in the neighbourhood is drawn upon for the enlargement of these holdings?—That was my suggestion to the Minister.

39306. Is not it essentially a case in which sales should not be direct from owner to occupier, but from owner to the British Commonwealth?

39307. Mr. O'NEAR.—Would I be right in saying that there are owners of these non-residential grading lands that would not part with them at any price, and if that is so the case for the application of compulsion because all the stronger?—There may be some, but some of them would be glad to get rid of them. They might have a fancy farm and think it hard to have to give it at a price, but some of them would take a price for it.

28908. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What would be the motive of their transaction, which you have outlined? Lord Marley said to his agent, and his agent said to a syndicate. What would be the object of the syndicate? It is very plain—to make money.

38909. To charge the tenants a bigger price than they could pay at the moment. For this

33010. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have you a list of the electoral divisions?—Derrylahan, Derryinst.

300313 Derrybrian has only £1.2s. 9d. per head valuation; Derrybrian has £1.4s. 7d.; Donnashan has £1.1s. 8d.; and Killynagh, £1.7s. 10d. So there are four electoral divisions in which the valuation per head is under thirty shillings, and therefore under the standard which was originally adopted for the scheduling of districts, and as a matter of fact, three districts would have scheduled a higher rate than the fact that 50 per cent. of the valuation of County Cavan did not exceed the schedule of that county.—*Wm.*

38912. The Chairman has suggested to me the question whether the grazing farms are within those four electoral divisions that we have now considered?—No. Some of them are in Down. None of them are in the four now being mentioned. Some are at White-

33613. That is exactly what one would expect, because wherever you have large grass farms they put

38814. You would not expect the grass lands to be situated in places where the valuation is so low as the figures I have given?—It is not. It is where the valuation is high that you have all these grass lands.

live only for money sent to them by friends from America. The barrenness of the soil, consisting of moor, swamps, and morasses, the coldness of the climate, produced by the proximity of the surrounding ranges of mountains, and the wetness of the land, consequent on the rivulets issuing from these mountains, contribute to render the land unproductive. The inhabitants are indolent, and work hard. I was assured that I have frequently seen them working down twelve or fifteen miles from the earth in water and carrying up the gravel on their backs, spreading it over the surface along the gravel line to raise crops and improve the land, and in many cases, when the land was reclaimed, the work was raised. As an instance of some cornfields, the valuation of one reaching up the foot of Cuckagh mountain is \$32 50., and it consists of six holdings. Cullagh mountain is the termination of the County Cavan. The holdings round it all reach to the summit. This district is much in need of drainage. In many places it is absolutely required. It is believed that the mountains in this district abound in valuable minerals if there were means to explore them.* No industrial works were carried on in this district. The Government would confer a great

May 29, 1902
Rev. Theodore

Dr. Patrick
Duffy

* Note by Wilson.—The want of roads operates badly against the industry and prosperity of this remote part of the country.—E. D.

May 29, 1907,
Mr. Patrick
Delane.

blowing if they would great money to aid re-afforestation in the exposed and remote quarters, which would afford shelter and improve the land and climate.

38916. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What kind of drainage is required; is it drainage on a large scale or field drainage?—Field drainage I believe would do.

38917. Is the main drainage sufficient as it is?—No, it is not.

38918. If the main drainage were once put in order would the tenants themselves do the field drainage?—I think a great many of them would.

Mr. THOMAS O'REILLY examined.

Mr. Thomas
O'Reilly.

38919. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You reside at Ballycorneil?—Yes.

38920. You represent the Cavan County Council?—Yes. As far as the County Cavan is concerned I suppose that you could hardly schedule the whole county, but I would like to give evidence as regards the baronies of Tullyhaw and Tullykean. The district from Ballycorneil to Bawnboy is a very poor one, that is above the post road. Some of the townlands running from the mountain range on the lowland district and across the valuation of the Shrove Russell district. There is a large portion of bog along the top of the townlands. It would be a good thing to schedule all this district. With regard to the starting of industries, taking Ballycorneil as a centre, there are two pipe-clay mines within half a mile, and a first-class limestone quarry to make calcium carbide, and there is post road. There is plenty of water power, and there is a good mill, a three-storey building that could be utilized, which is at present idle half its time, a corn mill, and a saw mill. As far as other industries are concerned I cannot say very much, as they do not exist in this district. The agricultural and technical instruction is almost useless except as regards the woodwork. Then, with regard to drainage, the people in the district between Bawnboy and the River are almost ruined owing to the flooding of their lands. The Woodford River adjoins the Erne. It would be possible to drain Brackley Lake in the direction of the Woodford. It would lower it fifteen feet and drain that lake almost completely; or it could be drained by the Swinlinbar River, and I don't believe it would cost very much more. In that portion of the country around Brackley Lake there are hundreds of acres which are not regularly under water, but in the summer time, when the rain comes on, the crops are all ruined.

38921. What is the obstacle at present in the river bed?—There is a mill; the river bed wants to be lowered, and the Drainage Board cannot lower the level of the river bed.

38922. Where would you lower the level of the bed of the river?—Very probably at Bawnboy. One could lower the level of Brackley Lake fifteen feet.

38923. It would still be above the level of the place that you have got to bring the water to?—Yes; below Bawnboy it would be.

38924. Is there an obstacle of any kind like a waterfall?—Not at all, but to take it from the Woodford River to Bawnboy you would want to lower for about a half mile below Bawnboy from Brackley Lake, which would take of seventeen or eighteen feet from the lake.

38925. To take it down to the level of the river into which it flows?—Yes.

38926. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Your suggestion is that Brackley Lake should be lowered by opening it either in one way or another into Lough Erne?—Yes; either by the Woodford or the Swinlinbar Rivers. Now, in reference to the proposed railway; there is a baronial guarantee from the County Cavan and Leitrim Light Railway from Bellefleur to Drogheda. The people in the County Cavan portion are paying 6d. in the £. If the light railway is made from Bawnboy round either to Maguirebridge or Ballykean it would be the means of deflecting trade from the Cavan

38927. For that purpose loans on easy terms should be available?—I think they should.

38928. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Was there a good deal of field drainage many years ago?—Not much.

38929. There are traces of field drainage that one sees in the fields coming by?—Some of the farmers may have drains passing through their lands, but it was not done in any broad way.

38930. Was there any arterial drainage done in the county?—None at all.

and Leitrim Light Railway via Swinlinbar, which would increase the taxation already heavy enough in the baronies of Tullyhaw and Tullykean.

38931. You are opposed to this project?—Yes. Even if they got a Treasury grant they should not buy of the baronial guarantee on the existing line before deflecting trade from that line.

38932. Mr. O'REILLY.—Would your objection disappear if the new system assumed responsibility for the existing guarantee?—Yes; or if they purchase the railway I would have no objection.

38933. I suppose you have heard of cases in which they have purchased baronial guarantees?—I am not aware of it.

38934. I am?—I hope it will be a precedent for the Cavan and Leitrim Railway.

38935. Mr. KAVANAGH.—I suppose that the baronial guarantee is limited to so much in the £?—They can go to any figure they like. In Leitrim it is a shilling in the £; in Cavan it is only sixpence. They may pay five per cent to the shareholders no matter how much it may cost the ratepayers, and the fact of deflecting trade from that railway would be the means of putting on a higher tax on the guaranteeing portion.

38936. Mr. O'REILLY.—Would the construction of the new line leave the old line derelict?—It would not leave it derelict, but it would defect a lot of trade, and increase the amount on the guaranteeing area. In reference to the mountain districts around Bawnboy which require roads, the district is too poor to undertake the cost of making these roads, but if it were scheduled under the Congested Districts Board there could be grants made for the purpose. There are 6,000 acres of Shrove Russell Mountain which, if sheltered, could be broken and made into good land. There are hundreds of farmers around there who have actually no roadway at present.

38937. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—There are very many families on farms that are rated very low in these electoral divisions. I suppose that would be an additional reason why they would need very special treatment?—Certainly. Often in many places they have no means of conveying produce either to their houses or to market. In reference to starting industries in our district, some 500 or 600 men could be employed with the water power we have and the different mines surrounding us. There are 6,000 acres on Shrove Russell, and if portions were ploughed with timber the remaining portion could be utilized and broken up.

38938. Mr. KAVANAGH.—In whose hands is the mountain at present?—The landholders. They have it let for shooting purposes at £30 a year.

38939. Are there any grazing rights?—Yes, on the mountain, but they are of very little use.

38940. Would the tenants be willing to give up these grazing rights for the purpose of planting?—Of course I cannot say; but it is of very little use to them at present.

38941. There might be that difficulty?—I don't think there would be any difficulty in that portion if they saw that there was going to be an improvement in what they had now.

Very Rev. PATRICK FINNEGAN examined.

Very Rev.
Patrick
Finnegan.

38942. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You are Parish Priest of Templeport, and have been appointed to represent the County Committee of Technical Instruction?—Yes.

38943. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You speak for the whole county?—Yes. The first suggestion I would

make to the Commission is that the barony of Tullyhaw and part of the barony of Tullykean should be scheduled. The barony of Tullyhaw is partly in Bawnboy and partly in Enniskillen. Enniskillen No. 2 and Bawnboy Rural District, in part at least,

should be scheduled under the Congested Districts Board. A great deal of that north-western portion of the county about which you have been receiving evidence would, I think, generally speaking, from the amount of the valuation, come under the definition of congested districts which run up to the fact that the electoral districts which run up to the mountains also come down to the plains, and thereby raise the valuation. If, roughly speaking, the Oulough range in the County Cavan and the Slieve Russell range were scheduled as congested districts they would take in the portions of the barony of Tullyhaw that require to be scheduled.

38944. We have a return here showing that in the Bawnboy Rural District there are four electoral divisions where the valuation per head is considerably under 30s.—Berbrack, Kinawley, Pedrovola, and Templeport. The number of those with very low valuation is exceedingly large—These electoral divisions are on the western mountain slopes, but also on the eastern mountain slopes there are electoral divisions that I think would require to be scheduled from their circumstances. I would also suggest, if possible, that a grant should be made from some source towards building a bridge across the Shannon and Bine Canal, in the townland of Burren. The people are cut off from both their parish church and parish school by this canal. When it floods in winter it is impossible for them to get to Mass on Sundays. A proposal was put before the Bawnboy Rural District Council to construct this bridge and a road, but it was considered too costly to undertake the work. Mr. Somerville, the county surveyor, estimated the cost at £200. If any means could be found of carrying out the work it would be a great public benefit.

38945. You consider that if the district were scheduled it would be possible for such a Board as the Congested Districts Board to provide portion of the expense of the work, the local authority finding the balance?—Yes. The townland I speak of is a very large townland. It contains twenty-six holdings, with a valuation of £267 11s. One of these holdings is valued at £25 1s, but the average valuation of all holdings is £11 9s, and exclusive of that large one, 25 2s, and the average per head would be £1 19s, if you calculate at the rate of 5s. members to each household; and this is excluding the large holding that I have referred to. As to agricultural instruction, a great deal of good has been done throughout the county by the agricultural instruction given by the county committee, but not so much in the north-west portion where they did not avail themselves of it. In my opinion the reason of this is that the scheme did not suit the poor holdings in the north-west. The short-handled land is not suitable for this district, as the land is too poor. Anything that gave profit, such as the poultry scheme, was taken up here, and did much good, especially that part of it that gave assistance towards having a better quality of eggs. The rest of the poultry scheme was not much taken up. The agricultural instruction given by the county instructor was not much put into practice in the north-west portion of the county owing to the fact that they considered it too much above their heads, or rather above their means, of putting it into practice.

38946. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Was this failure to meet the wants of the poor districts brought to the attention of the Agricultural Department?—Yes; but they must have one scheme for the whole county.

38947. They might vary the kind of bulls assigned to particular parts of the county—I believe that has been done, but I also consider that the area of administration of a whole county is rather large, and there should be a smaller area of administration, and a smaller committee to manage it: a small local committee in touch with the people, and knowing their needs, wants, and circumstances and habits. I think this would be far more successful administration of the money that is to be distributed for agricultural instruction.

38948. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—It would be difficult for a representative of that district you refer to to attend the meetings of the county committee?—Yes. The distance is too great.

38949. Don't you consider that such a district as you describe would require a little local administration of its own?—I think that this district especially would require it; and I think that all districts would be

greatly improved if the area was not the county, but a smaller area. May 26, 1907.

38950. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Would not it be more expensive to have three or four schemes working in the one county than one scheme?—I don't think so. If a small local committee got a certain amount of money to administer on certain lines laid down in the scheme a great deal of voluntary aid would be given, and there need not be any increase in officers. The county instructors can be employed by the local committees to come in and give instruction where necessary.

38951. You would have the same instructors for the whole county, though different schemes?—Yes.

38952. I don't see how that would benefit you?—It would, because the local committee would be better able to know what the local wants were. I think that agricultural instruction will not be availed of until the land question is settled. The minds of the farmers are unsettled on this question of buying their holdings, and until their holdings are bought out they won't be in a frame of mind to take as much instruction as they otherwise would.

38953. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I gather from your précis of evidence that you think the settlement of the land question requires the exercise of some compulsory power?—Yes. I think there should be some tribunal that will compel the sale of the land, and not only tenants and landlords but the ratepayers, who are ultimately security for the repayment of the purchase price of the land, should be represented before this tribunal.

38954. You think that the County Committee is too unwieldy for effective work?—Yes. They don't attend regularly. It is a very large committee. Members don't attend regularly, and they get out of touch with the work.

38955. The technical education committee should be a small body for a small area?—Yes; both technical and agricultural committees should be small bodies for small areas, and the local committee should have to disburse the money within certain lines laid down by the County Committee or by the Department.

38956. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The rate would be strait for the whole county?—Yes.

38957. You would not suggest striking different rates for different parts?—No, but, say in the barony of Tullyhaw, in the north-west portion of the county, the 1d. in the pound raised locally should be spent there, and also the proportion contributed by the Department, by the local committee.

38958. Would not the poorer portions of the county be worse off under that system, if they only get what is raised there and the proportionate amount of the grant from the Department?—If judiciously spent it would be better than at present.

38959. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The strong point with you is that local administration by men who know thoroughly the wants of the people in the district is a necessity?—Quite necessary.

38960. I suppose it would be a good thing if without trenching on the funds of the county at large some grant from the Department itself were forthcoming in aid of those poor localities?—Yes. The Department at present contributes five-ninths of the expenditure on agricultural instruction. A great deal of good has been done in the county by the agricultural and technical instruction schemes, but not so much as is commensurate with the expenditure. For instance, the County Committee started work in February, 1903, and £24,000 has been expended on agricultural and technical instruction up to last March. That sum includes everything.

38961. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say in your précis that technical instruction or agricultural instruction either must be profitable. I presume by that you mean that it must be such as will enable the people to whom it is addressed at once to improve their property on the land profitably; in your opinion it has been too theoretical and too much above the heads of the people until now?—Yes. Agricultural and technical instruction to be successful must be accompanied by some industry or some means of making it immediately profitable.

38962. Instruction which applies to an industry should be then started?—Technical instruction should not be aimless. People won't take up aimless instruction.

38963. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—It should be industrial instruction having close up to wages?—Yes.

38964. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Have you any industry which could be established on a permanent

Very Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.
Patrick.
Fraser.

May 29, 1897. basis in this district of which you are speaking?—Lecanabeg where started has been a profitable industry.

Very Rev.
Patrick
Flanagan.

38966. That only applies to girls?—Here also the normal instruction has been successful for boys, because they could turn it to immediately profitable account.

38965. Mr. SEANLAW.—Such as?—Working in their own homes; making girds, doers, and other things useful for the household.

38967. Is lecanabeg not transmitted from mother to daughter in these cases the same as in other parts where it exists?—We never had lecanabeg in this particular part of the country until the County Committee of Agricultural and Technical Instruction was started.

38968. Could you tell me how much of the £13,000 referred to applies to agricultural education?—Yes; £3,100 12s. 6d. was spent on technical instruction, and of this sum the Department contributed £2,400. Of the balance, £5,270 12s. 10d. was spent on agricultural instruction. Live stock cost £3,707 and administration £465 12s. 8d.

38969. Do you consider that there was an adequate return for the expenditure of all that money?—I do not. A great deal of good has been done, but perhaps the results have to come yet.

38970. Do you think that it could be made far more practicable?—Yes, if the area of administration were small, if the committees were small, and if the instruction was imparted on lines that would lead up to profit.

38971. In fact on lines that exist already among small farmers?—Yes.

38972. That is to say, it should be applied to the industry that the people are carrying on now of cultivating this land themselves?—Yes. It should be applied to the industry that they are carrying on at present with the apparatus and appliances they have, and the expenditure might be moderate and increase as the necessity arose.

38973. And would be under the management of those continually supervising it?—Yes.

38974. With a small area the cost of administration might increase?—I don't think so. I think that the cost of administration in connection with the money expended under the parish committees in the congested districts has not been much.

38975. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You also say that just now the Carran County Committee is hampered in its work for want of funds for technical instruction?—Yes.

38976. Do you mean by that that too large a share is being devoted to agricultural instruction?—No, I do not. The annual income of the committee is £600. The county contributes £200 and the Department £400. This sum was not entirely used up in some years, as there was a credit balance remaining. The Department wrote that this balance might be directed if not made use of by the committee. Two additional instructors were appointed, one in domestic economy and one in manual instruction. Full equipment was provided for them, and when the surplus which had accumulated was exhausted the joint committee were anxious that the instruction should be continued. The Department was approached, and assured the joint committee that under no circumstances could they increase the grants to the county, as it was already receiving £400, which was more than its share of the available funds, and that any expenditure outside income would be liable to be disallowed. The two instructors had about to be dismissed for want of funds, and the equipment has been rendered useless.

38977. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You think it a pity that the instructors should be dismissed when it was possible to employ them in such a way as to enable the pupils to turn the instruction to practical account?—I do.

38978. Mr. O'CONNOR.—Have the results so far been such as to justify the increased expenditure?—I would be very doubtful about that.

38979. What would be, in the pound in Carran produce?—£1,161—£1,105 in rural districts and £56 in urban districts.

38980. Under what Act do you work?—For technical instruction the Acts of 1889 and 1891 and also the Act of 1890.

38981. What would be the reply of the County Council if you asked them to increase the rate in order that you might get a larger equivalent grant from the Department?—I am quite certain that they would not increase the rate.

38982. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Not only is instruction do you look for practical instruction but also in agriculture you would like the instruction to take a practical form?—I think it quite necessary as both count that the instruction should be practical, leading up to profit. Seeing that the administrative area would be small and the committee would be small, the local committee should have the expenditure of the money both for technical and agricultural instruction within well laid down lines, which must not be too narrow.

REV. THOMAS CORR EXAMINED.

Rev. Thomas
Corr.

38983. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You are parish priest of Glengowla, County Carran?—Yes. I came before the Commission to ask some assistance to get roads made in my parish. It is in Enniskillen Number 2 Rural District, in the electoral divisions of Derraghive, Derrylahan, and Derrynagh.

38984. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Where exactly does the parish lie?—It lies in the valley of the Cullagh Mountains, bordering on Leitrim. I have brought here some specimens of turn and of peat. There is bog in the bog in my parish. It is a very valuable combustible (produces specimens of ore and peat). I want to get some employment in my parish. The people are all peasant proprietors in this poor mountain district, and I want to keep them at home.

38985. Your point is that this iron ore is to be found in large quantities in your parish?—Yes. We have the finest mountain rivers in the world, and any amount of waterfalls.

38986. You want a road made through your parish?—Yes. The valuation of my parish is very low, being a mountainous and congested district, and I want to get the parish scheduled, and get roads and other improvements made. There are twelve district councilors in the adjoining parish and I have only seven. I am sixteen years there. I got some work done by the Grand Jury. I can get nothing under the County Council. The County Council is favourably disposed to me, but the District Council takes sides, twelve to seven.

38987. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You are outvoted?—Yes. I am outvoted. I have appealed from the District

Council to the County Council, and the County Council appealed to the Local Government Board, and they are to hold an inquiry next Friday in Blacklion.

38988. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Let us hope that this will settle your difficulty?—I hope so. I have all the people peasant proprietors with the exception of one little property.

38989. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What would be the average instalment?—The district is a poor mountainous place and the instalments are moderate. They pay them punctually. I waited on the Chief of the Land Commission on one occasion, Judge Bewley. The estate was for sale. I saw in the Evening Telegraph that Judge Bewley would see anyone who wanted to see him next day at 12 o'clock. I was in the office at 11 and gave in my name and address, and said I wanted to see him. When I went in I said I appeared on behalf of the poor people on the estates in my parish. Judge Bewley looked at me and said, "I have a very poor opinion of the honesty of your people." The people were persecuted on that property. The landlord purchased it from Captain Hassard, who was a very kind man to his tenants. His agent went round to the tenants and told them that Captain Hassard was very embarrassed and would have to sell his estate if they did not increase their rents. They were very much attached to their landlord, and volunteered to give anything to him, because they were of opinion that he would not press them for the amount promised, and they doubled the rents in some cases. In two or three months the agent came round again and said he could not save Captain Hassard, as he was so embarrassed with spending, gambling, and racing, and

that he had bought the property himself. The new landlaid kept them up to their promise. So they saw they were sold. When the tenants were buying I assisted them as well as I could to get very moderate reasonable terms. I also told them to be very cautious as to what they would sign for lands subject to flooding from the dangerous mountain torrents.

38961. How many years purchase did they give?—Fourteen years' purchase of the valuation, but by the reductions allowed by the inspectors for losses sustained by floods the purchase money would not exceed ten years' purchase in a great many cases.

38962. That was previous to 1935?—Yes, it was; then when the Inspector came I told him he should make allowances for the floods. The lands were under water a few days previous to the Inspector's visit. I said, "You are very fortunate to come in the dry season. If you had come a little earlier you would have wanted a flat-bottomed boat to sail around the property, while now you can see the property." I asked him did he understand the nature of the herbage on the property. The good surface clay was buried away in 1846 and 1848. Then the herbage was poor. The class of cattle grazing on this herbage used to take what the peasants call chappern; that is, rhennation. Then we have to feed them on bran. The crops got in were very little, especially in a wet season. The people were in a wretched state of poverty. They have improved considerably. They are mending their business now.

38963. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—All this is very interesting as illustrating the history of your parish, but the point we come back to really is that you wish to impress on the Commission the necessity of having the parish scheduled as congested, and also the necessity of having roads made?—Yes; and we want some industry. We want a woollen factory. We have 3,000 sheep on the mountains. They fleece the sheep twice a year, and the wool is fine and makes a very superior cloth. We have a fine site for the mill on the banks of the Shannon. We have the best building material in the world, a class of Irish free-stone. We have an unfailing supply of water power and the water will fall on the wheel about forty feet. I wrote to the Agricultural Board about it, but could get no satisfaction.

38964. You have no woollen factory?—We could get no chance to erect a factory. We could get some local aid. The site would be within four miles of Belcoo railway station. It would keep the people employed at home. I would like to have some local industry to give employment and keep them at home. I would like to get the minerals worked, and it would benefit the district.

38965. Your second suggestion is that if possible funds should be found to start a woollen industry in

this part of the country?—I suppose that thirty tons of wool are sent out of the parish every year.

38966. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What kind of sheep are they?—Small Scotch sheep, small good characters. The people are very wise in looking after the sheep, and take good care of them.

38967. What do you suggest that the Commission should do with all the deposits represented on the table?—Work the iron mines. I am sure there are coal mines along there. I bought the turf because I was eight years in Drumkoreen as a curate there and have been over the coal mines, and there was the same class of turbarry there as this. I am sure there are coal mines in my parish, if there was any means of finding them out.

38968. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What you have told us will go into our report and be considered with the other recommendations coming before us. Of course you understand that we have no power to do anything ourselves. We can only make recommendations—I am aware of that, but I thought it only wise to bring this under your notice. The peasants have all the freeholds of the mountains, everything under the surface. Over the surface the game portions are preserved. When I went there I heard of a gentleman who was spending a lot of money, the late Mr. Sebastian Nolan. He purchased Lord Annesley's game rights on nine townlands. It has been well preserved. My game walks at Glasgavin are, I believe, better than the Scotch walks. We have a sulphur spa, a magnesia spa, and iron spa. There is one townland in my parish not purchased. Two tenants went into Court to get them fixed. The agent, Mr. Johnston, dealt very harshly with the people. He converted two of them into future tenants. There were seven tenants, and he has three of them widows. I wrote to the agent saying that I advised the tenants to give Mr. Crofton the full letting value of their holdings. Mr. Johnston wrote to me an insolent, disrespectful reply. He said that Mr. Crofton had no notion of disposing of his interest, and when he would he would not commit me in the matter.

38969. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I think you have impressed the Chairman with the notion that you look after the interests of your parish very vigorously?—Yes. I wrote to the landlord. I got his address on the back of an advertisement—Mr. Hugh Crofton, Trafalgar-square, London. I wrote that I was sorry to hear he would not dispose of his interest in the property to the tenants. He wrote a very respectful reply that he was willing to sell to his tenants. I wrote thanking him for his courteous letter and enclosing him the agent's letter, and said I presumed the agent was his representative when he wrote the enclosed. I got the agent dismissed in any case, but the poor simple people went back and got him restored.

Mr. ANDREW ANDERSON examined.

38970. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?—At Dramlish, Kinawley.

38971. Are you a farmer?—Yes. I have twenty-four English acres, the rent is £20, and the valuation £14 6s. It is in the Kinawley division of the Enniskillen Union.

38972. Tell the Commission the particular points that you wish to make?—I wish to explain about the poverty of the people. In the year after the famine of 1879 there were 400 families in the parish on the relief list. Fully 200 of these were in the Fermanagh part of the parish which I represent. I represent the division of Kinawley on the District Council in the Enniskillen Union. There had to get the benefit of the Arrears Act in 1885. They have to get money to pay their rent and pressing calls from America and Australia, England and Scotland. The strong boys and girls emigrate and send home money to assist the old and the weak. There are 515 of these small farmers whose valuation is under £5; 124 between £5 and £7 10s. There are 70 between £7 10s. and £10, leaving about 130 whose valuation is over £10. The non-resident tenants who live outside the parish are not included in this, and there is a great deal of watermarked land, almost 1,000 acres. There is one farm of 500 and another of 400 acres lying alongside it in the Kinawley division, both of which could

possibly be purchased for the enlargement of small holdings.

38973. Are they both grazing farms?—Yes. Lord Enniskillen has the 400 acres, and the occupiers of different farms are living in various places. One of them lives in Switzerland and has a stock farm on the shores of Lough Erne, which would make four or five small farms if he was willing to sell it. Another gentleman, Dr. Brady, who lives out of the country, owns a farm which he desired to sell some time ago and there was no purchaser.

38974. Was that because of the price?—No; there is very little money in the country now to buy land. Formerly it was bought by people who came home from America. Farmers themselves have no money to purchase land except in rare cases. Auctioneers have many farms on their hands which they cannot get rid of. The railway accommodation spoken of would benefit the Valley of Kinawley very much, and would give them access to the creameries. About 90 per cent. of the people go to these places, but they are much kept back by the number of bad roads. I have calculated from a good local knowledge of the district that twelve or thirteen miles would represent the total extent of roads to be made where the people are completely blocked up and cannot get to a place of worship on Sunday or to their everyday work, or

May 26, 1902.
Rev. Thomas Carr.

Mr. Andrew Anderson.

July 25, 1907.
Mr. Andrew
Anderson.

to the creameries. They have the creameries and cannot get to them for want of roads, especially in the winter season. Winter dairying is greatly kept back for want of these roads. They sometimes have to spend three days on a journey bringing their produce to market and coming back; taking it first to a neighbour's house on the roadside, spending another day going to market and another day coming home. I believe that the people would give local aid, judging by the way they have taken shares in creameries, knowing it was a system that had come to stay, and that their future prospects of improvement depend upon it.

30004. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What would a railway do for that district?—Take the butter and cream away from the country. Our central creamery at Kinawley is five miles from Flannan-court Station, eight miles from Ballydoonell. That industry alone would benefit to the extent of £200 a year by the railway running by it. The proposed line would run very close to Kinawley and would run past Swallowtail auxiliary line, and Machin, below Kinawley.

30005. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You advocate the making of necessary roads through the district which the County Council or the District Council cannot or will not do?—The bulk of these roads were brought before the Grand Jury or the District Councils. In a few cases they made parts of a few, but the others still remain unmade. It is very difficult to get anything done, as I have experience of bringing on a road four times. In other cases I know roads to be brought on half-a-dozen times and still fail. They might pass the District Council and be rejected by the County Council. Of course they could not make all these roads, but if a grant was made to help the poor people of the parish who have only from two to three cows, they could during the winter season from winter to winter do a great deal to help to make themselves more comfortable.

30006. Mr. O'Kearney.—Does each rural district maintain all the roads within its own area?—I really don't know that.

30007. Why should the County Council reject the proposals of the District Council in reference to roads?—They say they don't think that these roads are necessary.

30008. The County Council has not got the experience of the District Council?—They are acting on the advice of the County Surveyor, and he does not know the conditions as well as the people in the locality.

30009. Do I understand you to suggest that the County Council of Fermanagh would act aside the opinion of a whole District Council and take instead the opinion of the County Surveyor?—They unfortunately have done so in many cases.

30010. Mr. KEVAGH.—Those were new roads?—New roads or repairs to old roads.

30011. They had not been under contract before?—No, they had not.

30012. Consequently they had to go before the County Surveyor, and he had to certify whether they were of public utility, and when he certified they were not they had no option but to throw them out?—Yes, but in some cases from 70 to 100 families wanted these roads and could not do without them, and yet the County Surveyor would oppose as and say that they were not wanted.

30013. No doubt it is a great hardship, but the members of the County Council had no opinion when the County Surveyor would not pass them?—Then what are these people to do.

30014. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The main drift of your contention is that the district requires these roads, and if the ratepayers, through their representatives, do not provide these roads, then from some public source they ought to be a contribution to enable the roads to be made?—Yes; and if the people got some assistance they would give a great deal of local help to make them.

30015. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Would not that result in this, that as soon as the Council in a district or county saw that if they refused to make a road somebody else from outside would make it they would never make another road in the county?—I really think if they were enabled to start some of the more necessary roads leading from places to places they might afterwards give grants to keep them in repair. But they could not, in all cases, because it would make the rates too much.

30016. What is the next point that you wish to bring before the Commission?—It is very hard to live on the very small holdings, and if some of these unimproved lands were brought up it would help these poor people to live. There is another point, about the rivers. The rivers intersecting the valley from Swallowtail down to Lough Erne flood the whole district along their banks, up to 500 acres. About 175 families are affected. These rivers in some cases require bridges for the accommodation of the people.

30017. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Drainage is the main thing?—Yes. There is great necessity in the Kinawley district for widening and deepening these rivers and keeping them clear.

30018. Is there sufficient outfall?—I believe there is. It runs from the mountains down to Lough Erne.

30019. You stated that any farms that came into the market were bought by American money?—Yes. I know instances of that.

30020. You said that neighbouring farmers were not able to buy them, and that consequently there was not very much demand for them?—Not very much.

30021. Is it the case when there is a demand for them that the demand is largely from returned emigrants or from pensioners?—Yes.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You did not use the word pensioners, but we have heard it used in other parts of the country.

Mr. JAMES CARMICHAEL.

Mr. James
Carmichael.

30022. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is your address?—I reside at Drumella Killagee, Killybegs, Co. Carrig, am a member of the Carrigallen Branch of the United Irish League, and am well acquainted with the condition of the small farmers in the surrounding districts. Congestion exists in the whole of the Ballinacorney Rural District, which comprises eleven electoral divisions, some of which are already scheduled. There is no unscheduled land in this district. There is one grazing marsh in Lisnacro, within about five miles of this district, which is about being purchased by the Estates Commissioners. The condition of the people could be greatly improved by a scheme of drainage. I am of opinion that the tenantry on every estate should have the right of turbary where such exists, and no tenant should be allowed to shoot the boys into their acres when getting their roofs fixed as this has caused a great deal of litigation in a great many places. The Government valuation should not be a standard when fixing these areas to be scheduled as three-fourth of the tenantry of an estate or a electoral division may have a very small valuation; and the remaining one-fourth a very high valuation, thus depriving the majority of whatever benefits would be

derived from having the district scheduled. The production of lime burning as an industry would be a great benefit to the small farmers in this locality, as there is an unlimited supply of limestone in the neighbourhood, and this would serve as a manure for the land when drained. At present the small farmers in this district have to get manure on credit every spring, either from the co-operative creamery or from the sheep-sellers.

30023. Do the co-operative creameries lend money?—They give out manure on credit. They have an agricultural store attached to it.

30024. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—As a co-operative society?—Yes. Sir Ralph Cascard's estate was offered to the tenants under the Ashbourne Act of fourteen and a half years' purchase, and has now been purchased at twenty-one years' purchase of first term rent.

30025. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That was fourteen and a half years' purchase of the original rent?—All of them. The Godley estate, which comprised nine townlands, was sold to the tenants at fifteen years' purchase under the same Act, all arrears wiped out, which, on an average, amounted to two years' rent, and also a free transfer, but even at this price, what

the Inspector came to examine the farms, he refused to sanction the advance in a great many cases, with the result that the purchase money was reduced, in some instances, 30 per cent., thus showing that if these people were allowed to make their own bargains they would never be able to pay the instalments, for even on the conditions mentioned some of the tenants were unable to pay the instalments and were proceeded against and decreed at Quarter Sessions. The Comtee of Lestrin now wants twenty-six years' purchase for a similar estate. The poor tenants who are in arrears are always the most anxious to buy, as they think it will give them relief, if only for one or two years.

30027. Mr. O'KELLY.—You say that Sir Ralph Cascard's estate was offered at fourteen and a half years' purchase of first term rents. That would mean seventeen and a half years' purchase of second term rents?—Yes, fourteen and a half years' purchase of original rents.

30028. The estate has now been sold at twenty-one years' purchase?—Yes; under the present Act at twenty-one years' purchase of first term rents.

30029. Twenty-one years' purchase, plus the bonus, is equal to twenty-four years' purchase and another years' purchase in the shape of expenses of clearing title, &c., would mean, roughly, twenty-five years' purchase; is not that so?—Yes.

30030. Could you justify this increase of seven and a half years' purchase on the former price of seventeen and a half years' purchase of second term rents?—Times did not improve.

30031. Could you account for the inflation of price?—The tenantry as a rule want to get free under the landlord in any case.

30032. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—And at their own expense?—As a rule they are.

30033. Is there any good reason why they should undertake obligations which they cannot hope to discharge, don't they look to the future at all?—They should look, because they are purchasing without any inspection.

30034. They are undertaking obligations which, according to the evidence you have given they cannot hope to discharge. Why, then, are they possessed of this overwhelming desire to get rid of the landlords?—They think that they will get some redress.

30035. Mr. O'KELLY.—Did Sir Ralph Cascard offer to sell his estate at fourteen and a half years' purchase?—Yes.

30036. Did the tenants accept?—No.

30037. Why did they not accept?—I suppose they thought it was too high.

30038. Afterwards they bought at twenty-one years' purchase of second term rents; can you account for their change of view?—There were some arrears then which were wiped out.

30039. Were all the tenants in arrears?—Not all, but about one-quarter.

30040. What arrangement was come to between the landlord and the tenants as to arrears?—They were wiped out absolutely.

30041. The purchase price more than covered the arrears?—I think it did.

30042. You are aware that the repaymen in last month are the security against loan to the State on land purchase. That being so, do you think that they should have some voice in the matter?—They should have some voice in the purchase agreement.

30043. What, in your opinion, are the prospects of the tenants on the Cascard estate who bought at twenty-one years' purchase; do you think that the character

of the bargain is such that they need be under no apprehension of their being able to pay the annuities as they fall due?—They are paying so far.

30044. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—How many have they paid?—One or two.

30045. Is it your view that in order to escape pressing embarrassments tenants might be pressed into improvident bargains?—Yes. They make improvident bargains owing to their embarrassments.

30046. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Still, you held a man ought not to make a bargain which he does not intend to keep?—He should not.

30047. Mr. O'KELLY.—The man who is security for his keeping his bargain should have some voice in making the bargain?—He should have a representative.

30048. Suppose it was proposed that the County Council should have a voice in these negotiations, do you think that possibly tenant purchasers would view that proposal with sympathy?—Certainly I do.

30049. You come from the County Lestrin?—Yes.

30050. What sum of money has been stopped from the grants to which Lestrin is entitled because of loans in connection with the liquidation of stock and other matters connected with land purchase?—It would mean a rate of 5pence in the £.

30051. A sum has been stopped this year that represents a rate of 5d. in the £?—Yes. The greater part of the small farmers depend on remittances from America to pay their rent, and, in bad years, to buy necessities, and were it not for those remittances a great number of small farmers in the locality would not be able to pay the rates. During the last thirty years I believe more money came from America and other sources than was paid for the liquidation of some estates. In my opinion, in the estate I live on, there came more money into it within the last thirty years from other sources than would buy it out at twenty years' purchase. The estates are very small, and the smaller the estates the poorer the tenantry, as a great many of these small estates were purchased out of the Incumbered Estates Courts, and the rents were raised in some instances 50 per cent., and even higher. The estate I live on was purchased in 1870. The rent was raised in every case to nearly double what it was before, and in one case it was trebled.

30052. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Was the purchaser an Irishman?—Yes.

30053. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What remedy would you propose to meet the wants of the small occupiers?—If there was a small grant given for field drainage it would improve the condition of the people.

30054. Is your District under the Computed District Board?—No. It is computed, but not scheduled.

30055. What kind of houses have the people?—Some of them not very habitable.

30056. The district requires drainage?—Yes. The Killybeg River, a tributary of the Erne, has the country destroyed for miles and miles around. As a consequence of the flooded hay cattle die in the spring following. I have it from a veterinary surgeon that it is some dirt in the flooded hay which causes disease in the cattle in the following spring.

30057. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What would be the remedy?—To deepen and widen the river.

30058. Is it a common thing here to raise the banks of a river to prevent flooding?—It would not do in this case. It is a very low-lying district along this course.

MR. FRERICK CLARKE EXAMINED.

30059. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—I act as a shopkeeper in Broombridge, and I have a farm just adjoining the town, of nineteen acres. It is bought out. The annuity is 24s. 6d. and 25s. 7d., and the valuation is 25. I wish to refer to the lace industry which we have started here for the last couple of years, which is working very well. The number of girls in the class is fifty-four.

30060. What is the average attendance?—About twenty-five or twenty-eight.

30061. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What kind of lace is it?—Irish crochet lace. The amount paid for the workmen from October, 1905, to 1906 was £179 12s. 7d.

The amounts earned by four of the girls during the same period were respectively £12 12s. 1d., £15 1s. 6d., £12 12s., and £4 15s. These were four of the best workers.

30062. The average would be only a little over 24s?—Yes. Miss Maguire, the teacher for 1905 and 1906 qualified for thirty-two pupils. The payment is by capitation grant of 22s. per pupil, which would mean in this case, 25s. Of that amount she was only paid 22s. The Committee did not afterwards pay her any more. I would recommend that in future the teacher be paid by a fixed salary instead of by capitation grant.

May 25, 1907.

Mr. JAMES CURRY.

Mr. Patrick CLARKE

May 20, 1907.

Mr. Patrick Clarke.

39053. **SIR FRANCIS MOWAT.**—Did not they sell the lace?—The lace was sold for the workers by the teacher, but this is for payment of the teacher.

39054. **Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.**—An inspector decides who passes the examination?—Yes. It depends on the domestic economy class. If a certain number don't put in a certain number of hours in the school class they are not qualified to count in the examination.

39055. **Mr. Kavanagh.**—Is this under the county scheme?—Yes.

39056. You could not, of all my whether it is a paying industry?—Yes. It pays very well.

39057. **SIR FRANCIS MOWAT.**—The payment of the teacher is fixed on the occupation for the number of pupils certified?—Yes.

39058. But she is not entitled to that; she only gets as much of it as there are funds to provide?—Probably.

39059. She comes with that understanding, that she will get a fee per head provided that funds can be found for it?—Yes; but I think the understanding is that the local committee will receive the full amount that the pupils qualify for, and then pay the teacher independently of this.

39060. How does she come to understand that if it is not the case?—It happened not to be the case last year.

39061. **Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.**—She was paid only half the maximum?—Yes.

39062. Were all the other instructors in the county docked in the same way?—I think so.

39063. None of them were paid in full?—I don't exactly know.

39064. **Mr. Kavanagh.**—Could you give the expense for the year?—I could not.

39065. Can you say that there was a balance to credit at the end of the year?—I don't believe there was.

39066. I thought you said it was a paying industry?—Yes; as far as the workers were concerned.

39067. If it was a private concern you would not say that it was a paying concern?—It is not.

39068. It is merely an employment for the people of the district, but it does not pay itself?—It does not pay itself. It is just an employment at home. It keeps the people from going to America.

Mr. O'Kelly.—The best way to keep the people at home is to encourage Irish industry.

39069. **Mr. Kavanagh.**—Cast your eye over to what is in the corner; do you think it right that a school-house should be made the medium of advertising English manufactures; do you see Colonel's Mustard there advertised?—Yes, I saw that. I would also be in

favour of a light railway from Bawnboy to Maguinness-bridge, as we have no market. The people have to be out all night when they want to bring their pigs to Enniskillen, and it costs them eight or nine shillings extra to take them to Enniskillen or Ballinacorney.

39081. **Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.**—Do these lace-makers stick at it?—They stick pretty well at it.

39082. How long are the girls working who make the little remuneration you mention to the Commission?—About two years.

39083. Have they every inducement to continue?—Yes.

39084. It is quite understood in the district that it is a slow process which requires a lot of attention?—Yes.

39085. **SIR FRANCIS MOWAT.**—Do they continue making lace after leaving school?—Yes; some of them do their work at home.

39086. How are the things sold?—By the teacher.

39087. They always find a market?—They always have more orders than they can complete.

39088. If there is no money left to pay the teacher the orders must be taken at too low a price to pay?—The teacher is supposed to be paid by the grant.

39089. **Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.**—What the Technical Instruction Committee does is to supply technical education. In order to get the work started the complete remuneration for it is supposed to go to the workers?—Yes.

39090. The workers, at all events during the instruction period, are not supposed to pay for the instruction?—No.

39091. **SIR FRANCIS MOWAT.**—What sum does the Committee offer to the teacher; does it say "You shall get the full amount of your fees," or "Such amount of fees as there is at the end to give you, and no more"?—She is engaged to get £2 per head for each girl who puts in the requisite number of attendance. But the local committee had not enough money last year to pay the teacher a fair salary.

39092. If the requisite number of girls qualify her to get £24 upon what ground does the Committee refuse to pay her?—They have not the funds.

39093. **Mr. SUTHERLAND.**—In other words the county refuses to tax itself for this purpose?—Not that way.

39094. **Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.**—Is not this the way: a certain number of girls are appointed instructors and the remuneration that would come to them in the ordinary course is fixed by stipends. For some reason or other there has been a miscalculation and there is not so much money available as was earned and in that particular year the remuneration is cut down?—Yes.

MR. RICHARD HOWE EXAMINED.

Mr. Richard Howe.

39095. **SIR FRANCIS MOWAT.**—Are you a farmer?—I am a shopkeeper in Swardlinbar, and I have about 55 English acres, for which I pay £25. I have it bought out from the landlord and the payment will be somewhat less when the vesting order is made.

39096. What are the points you wish to bring before us?—The necessity of a railway is the principal thing. I would suggest that the Government be urged to give a grant towards the railway from Bawnboy to Maguinness-bridge. There is a guarantee on the railway from Belmullet to Ballinacorney that bars us from going further in offering any guarantee. If the proposed railway were made it would reduce the price of meal by a shilling and flour by sixpence a bag. I could not enforce the statement that has been made that it would take traffic away from the railway that has been already made, because it would be a connecting line between the two narrow gauges which have been mapped out. The Government made some offer which is somehow blocked. It is very successful and is the first thing necessary to help the small farmers here. There is another thing that the Government might be urged to do: to give farmers of from £20 valuation down a free quantity of guano, or, say, larch, Scotch and spruce, for the purpose of planting around their dwellings for ornament and shelter, and the Agricultural Board could see whether they were planted properly.

39097. The small farmers should give up little bits of their holdings for the purpose of planting shelter

belts?—Yes; that has been advocated, as well as for the worst part of the mountain.

39098. The tenant would have to be asked to give up his rights for plantation, which he would be asked to do?—A great deal of it is in the hands of landlords.

39099. It is not now?—Not so much now.

39100. That is the difficulty?—Farmers say about here that they would be able to get it done themselves if they got the quacks. It would be a great advantage to the country.

39101. **Mr. Kavanagh.**—There is a baronial guarantee for the existing railway from Belmullet to Ballinacorney?—Yes; 5d. in the pound, from which we have no benefit, as it is too far from us.

39102. How did you come to be included in the guarantee when you got no benefit from the line?—We objected strongly to the guarantee. I went up with Father Reilly and with a few others to object.

39103. That was in the old Grand Jury days?—Yes. We have not much benefit from it. If our traffic was served by it we would not suffer so much.

39104. **Mr. SUTHERLAND.**—Does any of your traffic go to that railway?—Not much. The road is hilly.

39105. Your natural trade is eastward?—Yes.

39106. **Mr. O'Kelly.**—What is your electoral division?—Swardlinbar, in the Union of Bawnboy.

39107. Fifty-eight per cent. of the holdings in the electoral division are unenclosed—is not that so?—I

know that the farmers want some relief. Some of the farmers are very careless about their farms, I am sorry to say.

30107. A good way to bring the small holdings up to the economic standard would be to encourage them?—That might be done in some instances, certainly.

30108. And if the land were available in all instances?—There is not much land available in this district.

30109. Are any grass lands in this part of the country being advertised for letting purposes just now?—I am not sure.

30110. Are you postmaster of this town?—Yes.

30111. I think I saw a notice in the post office window advertising grazing land?—I have charge of a grazing farm belonging to Dr. Brady that was already mentioned. We offered it for sale this year and could not get the price that was formerly offered. It is 65 acres, and is in the County Fermanagh.

30112. What way do you generally offer the lands?—By public auction.

30113. Who is it generally takes it by public auction?—The former purchaser has a farm adjoining, but resides in Enniskillen, where he has a shop. Dr. Brady lives in Australia. We would be very glad if the Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board or anybody else would give us a fair price for it, and we would be quite willing to sell.

30114. Are there many farms in this district identical with the one you are trying to get a tenant for?—There are a good many in the County Fermanagh. Lord Enniskillen has a very large extent of land under grazing, which was described here to-day.

30115. You think the best way to make the small holdings permanent would be to get hold of these grazing lands?—I think the owners would be inclined to sell. Dr. Brady would, I know.

30116. Are you agent for any other property?—A few others.

30117. If landlords are willing to sell and tenants are anxious to buy why is it that sales have been checked?—I speak of the one that I know, that of Dr. Brady. I did not intend to speak of any others.

30118. If the gentleman referred to is willing to sell to the Estates Commissioners why have not they been involved?—We have not had any communication from them. I merely say on behalf of Dr. Brady that he is prepared to sell if he gets a fair price.

30119. What do you regard as a fair price?—I did accept £400 as the lowest for that farm. We were offered £400 for it. It has been bought out and Dr. Brady paid the one-fourth of the purchase, amounting to £100 down. That left the instalments very low. They are only about £18 now. That farm formerly let to a tenant at £50. Dr. Brady bought at 15 years' purchase at the time and is now possessed of both landlord's and tenant's interest.

30120. He bought this place subject to an annuity. When was that?—Twenty years ago.

30121. Will the annuity be extinguished some?—No. I think the second decadal reduction is coming on now.

30122. How much was paid for the 66 acres?—£420.

30123. What would you dispose of them now for?—£420. Dr. Brady's wife left him the tenancy and he bought from the landlord, Mr. Graham, paying £158, representing one-fourth of the purchase money in cash.

30124. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Whatever property is there now represents the tenant right and the instalments of the landlord right paid up for a certain number of years. That is, the place is subject to an annuity of £18 a year for a certain number of years, and for this place you ask £420.

30125. Mr. O'Kearney.—To whom is this land generally let?—It is not let to anybody. It is for men to feed in cattle to grass on it.

30126. Who are these men?—I have three on it myself, and there are several others.

30127. Who are the class of people who send cattle to grass on it?—They are not very well off. Many have not land enough.

30128. Are they the class of people who want accommodation land?—Some of them may be.

30129. What is the price charged for grazing?—It varies according to the size of the cattle, from 18 to 20 shillings for a year-old and from 20 to 25 shillings for a two-year-old.

30130. What is the gross revenue from cattle on your land?—Some years we get more grass than cattle. Then we sell hay off it. There would be about £20 for the grazing in the summer six months. We have no stock in winter except the owner's, about nine or ten head, on which there is a profit, and we sell also perhaps about £20 worth of hay.

MR. JOHN KEENEY EXAMINED.

30131. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—Yes. I reside at Rockfield, Banbury. I have 28 acres the rent is £15 10s. and the valuation is £25 10s. It is in the Pedwaroch electoral division. As rate collector and relieving officer I want to speak generally of the Banbrack, Kinawley, and Pedwaroch electoral divisions. The valuation of the Banbrack electoral division is £263 on land. We have 279 on buildings. We have 140 houses in it and a population of 755 persons. It is one of the poorest divisions in the Banbury Union. The people are on small patches of land of from six to ten acres, with very few exceptions.

30132. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The valuation per head is 19 shillings?—That is all. In that division, last February, I had twenty-nine applications from small farmers to get out-door relief, and the law forbids giving out-door relief to farmers except in urgent cases. Resolutions were sent from the Banbury Guardians to the Local Government Board asking them to consider the matter. The Local Government Board Inspector came down and went with me from house to house and we found that they had no potatoes to put into the ground, and he strongly recommended the Local Government Board to give them £250, to be earned on repairing roads in order that they might crop the ground with seed. That has been done. We had 100 workers on three different roads, one in Banbrack, one in Templeport, and one in Pedwaroch. The money is almost exhausted; I am a paymaster on the roads, and the same number of people will be destitute until the new crop is reaped. I think the proper thing would be the improvement of the out-offices and dwellings of the small occupiers who live in miserable hovels.

30133. Mr. O'Kearney.—You are sanitary officer?—

Yes; but the poor people are not able to build good houses. I would suggest that a loan would be given.

30134. Because of the poverty of the people you don't take the steps that the law would presume you should take?—We send the medical officers of health and sometimes hire these people, and they improve their houses, but they are not able to build new houses.

30135. Have you heard anything about the work of parish committees in other districts?—I have. They would make a wonderful change. It was a great mistake that these poor places were not scheduled.

30136. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Your point is that it is a pity that the definition should exclude such poor districts as these?—Yes. There is one townland in the Kinawley division which has a valuation of £5 15s. and has five large families on it. They could not live there, even in the miserable way they do, only for having their children hired. The fact is, when I go for the tithes to them they have to go to the children who are hired to get their wages from them. There are plenty of vacant farms in every division held by the landlord or other man who don't reside on them, and used for grazing purposes. In the Kinawley division we have several farms of that sort. One held by the landlord is about 40 acres, and if divided among these poor classes of men confined on four or six acres it would be a great relief to them. In many places you find farms held by the landlords and other rich men for grazing purposes, and alongside these ranches are people with large families confined to four or five acres of land.

30137. Are there such ranches now without anyone living on them?—Yes.

30138. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You alluded to one farm of 40 acres. Is there anyone living on that?—

May 29, 1907.
Mr. Richard Mowat.

Mr. John Keene.

May 25, 1907. None. It belongs to Mr. Johnston, of Bawnboy House. He lets it for grazing purposes and uses it for feeding his own stock and so on. The valuation is £12. There is another farm in the same township and a man in Glengrove has it. It is about three miles from it.

29129. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is there any grass land near the holdings of the five families whose valuation is £8 8s. 6d.—Yes. The two great farms I mention are within a quarter of a mile.

29130. These no doubt the holdings of the small men and could be added without migration?—Yes. I would also advocate a new railway, which would be a great benefit to the district. The people are paying a baronial guarantee for a railway that has been of no benefit to them at all. It is ten miles and more from some of the people. The people have to go to Enniskillen and other towns, leaving their places at night, to bring their pigs to market.

29131. How was this part of the country involved

in the railway tax?—It was done in the Grand Jury days. It is a baronial tax and the whole barony of Tullynaw has to pay for it.

29132. Mr. SETHNALL.—If you were allowed to transfer your guarantee from the old to the new railway would you continue it?—Yes; it would be far better to pay for something that would accommodate us.

29133. Mr. O'KEEFE.—What would the people living along the old railway say?—The new railway would be a benefit to them. It would bring more traffic.

29134. Did you hear evidence to-day that the new railway would deflect traffic from the old?—I don't agree with that, but they might lose a little in Ballyconnell, but we would have a better market here in Swathmore.

29135. You don't think there would be any competition between the two railways for traffic?—If one railway was made it would help the other.

REV. J. R. MAGUIRE EXAMINED.

Rev. J. R. Maguire

29136. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You come from Carrigroh, County Fermanagh, to represent that district?—Yes. My evidence concerns the fact that the Rural District of Ballin, Union of Ballyshannon, should be declared a congested area. I have been nominated by the United Irish League of the district about which I intend to give evidence. And I will confine that evidence to the electoral units of Lattone, Roagh, Garrison, and Inismacnealt, which comprise practically the parish in which I minister as a clergyman, and with which I am best acquainted. First I wish to draw attention to the fact that the district made up of these four electoral units, although part of the County of Fermanagh, is cut off by nature from the rest of the county by a long ridge of mountains running in an oblong direction along the east and south side, and by the River Erne on the north side. The western side borders Leitrim. It is practically isolated from the county, and fits into Leitrim or Donegal better than Fermanagh. Nature has formed it in such a way that it is sheltered from shoring in the good things that flow through its county, while the adjoining counties won't regard it as entitled to any special considerations from them. It certainly is suited for special consideration and should have it from the hands of the Congested Districts Board. It is entitled to it by reason of the holdings and population. Let me take each division separately. In the Lattone Division you have a population of 492. The total valuation on agricultural land in the division is £797 15s. This averages about £1 12s. per head of the population. The number of holdings in the same is 144. The average valuation of holdings, £5 15s. In the Roagh Division, 395. Valuation of the agricultural land, £690 10s. Average valuation per head of population, £1 13s. The number of holdings, 95. Average valuation of holding, £7 3s.

29137. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You exclude the valuation of the houses?—Yes.

29138. Why?—Because I regard the land as a means of livelihood. The houses in the place are not productive. They are merely a shelter and contribute nothing to the support of the people. The valuation is supposed to be a test of the means of living of the people in the locality. Consequently the houses if included would help to raise it by a figure which would not indicate any additional means of living. Therefore I have separated the houses from the land. I have also prepared statistics for the whole valuation. In the Garrison Division the population is 708, valuation, £1,715 15s.; average per head £2 11s. Number of holdings, 220; which average £3 11s. per holding. If, however, the townlands of Frough, Garrison, and Blinnagh are left out, which contain practically all the good land of the division and by far the largest holdings, then the average per head is £1 12s., and per holding £7 15s. In the Inismacnealt Division if the townlands on the list which I have submitted be taken the population is 1,355, valuation, £2,325 5s.; average per head is £1 15s. Of the 300 holdings the average valuation is £7 15s. From which it appears that the average on those four divisions is about £7 per holding, and that of Lattone averages only £5 15s. Certainly from the point of

valuation these are uneconomical holdings, and there are some of which the valuation is even less than £5. As a means of livelihood, the land in the district is the worst perhaps in Ireland, certainly is the worst in Fermanagh. It is nearly all mountain, covered with heather, fern, or, what is worse, a little, some very willow. The little tillage is done by reclaiming bog and cut-away bog. The hills have only a few inches of stable earth at most, and the subsoil is a white sand, which is barren as far as crops are concerned. The proportion of tillage to grazing is very small, not more than one acre in ten. The crops, especially the potato and oat, are only good when a favourable year comes round. When the year is wet, like last year, then the damp bogs give only half a crop, and did not give even that last year. Hence it is easy to see how a farmer in the district in the average run of years can only raise from his farm provision for his family for about three months. His other means of livelihood is store cattle raising and milk. On that hand land good stores can never be raised. If the young are sold as calves, the produce is sometimes very good. But once the hand-feeding is over and the animals are allowed to shift for themselves they grow hard and stunted without getting on flesh or bulk. Most of the grazing is bad for milch cows, too. In the summer season nearly all the cows of the district are liable to a disease which is nearly like rheumatism. The animal gets hidebound, and loses the power of the legs. It is only by the repeated doses of bran that they can be saved from the trouble. It is the hard grass that causes digestion, which causes this peculiar malady. The people call it crappan. Very little is raised on the farms for hand-feeding unless cabbage. The milk is not marketed to the best advantage, as there are very few equipped dairies, and from the absence of roads or good paths the creamery cannot be worked in many cases. From the absence of tillage, which, with cattle raising, is the only industry, with one exception, in the locality, it follows that emigration must be, as indeed it is, very great. I could not lay my hands on statistics bearing on the locality. But my experience is that all the girls but one of the family go to America. The boys, except the individual who is to get his father's farm, go to Scotland for the most part, and to America. The higher class farmer might apprentice one or two to the grocery or send him to the police force. There is no sporting for the boy whose father cannot pay or give to him a farm unless as a servant.

29139. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do the boys go to Scotland permanently or for the harvest?—Permanently. They go principally to the manufacturing towns.

29140. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Do many go into domestic service?—I might say that only one family out of ten in the locality provides domestic servants. In the case of the others the boys go to Scotland and the girls to America.

29141. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Has there been any class of domestic estates in that district?—I believe that four years ago the Department of Agriculture started a class in coohery. There have been none since. The next point in connection with the farm

is that the money that pays the rent is hardly ever raised off the farm. A good 50 per cent. is contributed by the sons and daughters who have emigrated. And were it not for this a good many could not pull through at all. It is a well known fact that very few farmers have brought up their families without having drawn largely on credit and on the prospects of the youngsters occupying their parents with their earnings in a foreign land. We have only one solitary industry. It is spiggings. The teacher is paid by the Committee of Technical Education. There were two classes held in 1906, and according to the official returns seventy-five pupils were enrolled. The average earnings per week in one of the schools was from 6s. to 8s.; in the other, 6s. to 3s. The total earned by both classes would be about £350. That is the only industry, and £350 represents the gross earnings among a population so large. I should hardly say gross earnings, as many of the shopkeepers in the local towns give out spiggings. But in their case the pay must be proportionately less, as they cannot get the best class workers, and, of course, must have their commission on work done as well. We have also an auxiliary industry, but I don't think that can be called an industry in any sense as it employs only two persons, the gentleman who separates the milk and the man who drives the engine. Another drawback is the want of money at cheap interest. There is a system called the six months' credit system, which is ruining the country. Farmers go to buy cows, calves, or horses at an auction and get six months time to pay. The first result is that they buy the animal usually dearer than its market value, because they know that they are getting the six months' credit, and also because there is a great deal of competition, then they have to pay auctioneer's fees. That increases also the price of the animal. They also have to pay the interest on the bill that the auctioneer has to get. The result is that one, two, or three auctioneers have practically the whole parish in their hands. What we want is an agricultural bank. The people in the locality are too poor to subscribe to it. We would like the Congested Districts Board to make some small grant to start an agricultural bank to do away with the six months' credit system and to give the farmer an opportunity of getting money on reasonable terms when he wants to buy a few pigs to pay his rent.

30152. Mr. O'KELLY.—If you got a small grant would the local people supplement it?—When the people get to understand in those who have a little money saved will supplement it when they know the security to be all right.

30153. Has any attempt been made to teach the people the value of co-operative banks in that district?—Not in the place where I am at present. I started it where I was before, but it was never brought to the notice of those people.

30154. Where you went before was not a congested district?—It was not.

30155. Therefore you got no grant from the Congested Districts Board?—No. The people were richer. They could live better.

30156. Sir FRANCIS MOWBRAY.—Is it very unusual that a tenant having only a little money should still run himself into debt with the tradesman or auctioneer? does not it very often happen that a man who has got a little money instead of employing that to buy what he wants a little cheaper, leaves it in the bank and then pays on credit?—My experience of this district is that the people who get the six months' credit are people who have no money, who cannot afford to pay ready money, because if they could it would be better to go to the fair with it and get things cheaper.

30157. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What happens at the end of the six months?—They have either to pay the bill or the auctioneer will put up the cattle for sale if they cannot pay him, or will renew the bill at 7 or 10 per cent. interest.

30158. What happens at the end; it cannot go on like that?—The auctioneer then proceeds to sell out the man. In my own experience I have known of a man who bought a cow in this way, and this system of renewing went on for three years, and eventually the auctioneer sold the man out, cows, farms, and everything else.

30159. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—These banks would require to be of a very temporary character; you would not anticipate that the system of credit was to go on continuously?—If they paid people would give

them their money to get 4 per cent. instead of putting it in the Post Office Bank at 2½ per cent.

30160. Can any farmer carry on business successfully or prosperously by credit; that is not a natural operation?—If they could do without credit it would be the better. We have to face existing facts.

30161. These would cease; would they not?—After some time I hope they would cease. I am sure the people when they get money cheaper and when they get their stock up, would be able to do without any credit.

30162. What strikes me from your narrative is the ease with which they get into that state of taking credit; it is ruinous?—Yes; it is so easily done. The auctioneers are very obliging in that way.

30163. Where individual virtue comes in is in refusing that?—Yes. When they begin it they go deeper into the mire.

30164. Does the system of credit exist to a large extent?—Yes; at least 50 per cent.

30165. It is not encouraging?—It is not encouraging.

30166. The present state of affairs being what it is, one would expect that they would do without such advances altogether?—I hope to be able to do without it, but it is a pressing need, and that is why I call attention to it. The next point to which I have to call attention is the want of transit accommodation. They seem to have been neglected altogether in the part by the Grand Jury. Far away from Fermanagh they were considered more or less outlived at the back of the Dog's Mountains. Take Lifford division. You have one road, a main road from Belleek to Bellisk, skirting the district, but away for seven miles up the mountains there are no roads to be met with. The District Council started a road there some years ago, and made two miles. Then it fell through, and the road is now practically useless. We have no funds from the District Council, because the rural district of Belleek is outlived. It is more highly taxed than any other part of Fermanagh. You will notice that for the year 1907 the rate for Belleek Rural District is 30 pence; Clones, 15 pence; Kesh, 22 pence; Kesh, 22 pence; Kesh, 22 pence; Kesh, 22 pence. So our poor district is taxed the highest, and we cannot hope for any roads.

30167. Do you consider that taxation high?—Comparatively high.

30168. The rating on poor people in my country is more than three times that?—Compared with the rest of Fermanagh it is high. It is more than Lanesboro, which is a rich district.

30169. In the poorest districts in Scotland local taxation is fifteen shillings in the pound?—We are badly in need of roads. We are outlived. Unless we get some extra outside aid or grant-in-aid we have no hope of getting them in the near future.

30170. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Granted, that the taxation is so high in Scotland, we may take it for certain that the public authority promotes many works of public utility?—I suppose so.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Most of it is education.

30171. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Education in Scotland has meant a great deal for Scotland?—Yes.

30172. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is not the difference between local and Imperial taxation that local taxation is spent for the benefit of the people who pay it?—Yes. We are trying to make our roads new, and consequently we are paying more for roads than in any other part of the County Fermanagh. In other places they got the roads before. I should mention that the county adjoining us is a congested district. The Congested Districts Board would have undertaken several drainages and other works had they authority to come and meet them on the other side in Fermanagh. Between Derryneer, County Leitrim, and Derryneer, County Fermanagh, the Congested Districts Board gave a grant of 4s. 6d. a perch for a road, but it could not be completed because thirty-eight perches lie in Fermanagh, and there was no authority to take up the road. There it lies. It is the same with a river that is doing a lot of harm flowing through the end of Fermanagh through the Lifford division. In the County Leitrim the Congested Districts Board would take up the drainage of that river if there were any Board to take up the drainage in the County Fermanagh, but because there is no such body the work fell through. This river floods 200 or 300 acres every autumn and robs the crops, and owing to the fact that we are not scheduled as congested nothing can be done.

May 23, 1907.

Rev. J. K. Maguire.

MR. JAMES CANNIDY EXAMINED.

May 28, 1907.

Mr. James
Cannidy.

30173. Sir FRANKS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—Yes. I reside at Derryagh, Swainlinbar, and represent the Swainlinbar County Division on the County Council. I have 24 statute acres; my rent is £6, and my valuation £7 5s. It is in the Kinawley electoral division. What I consider most necessary for the people there is employment—something that will keep the people from starvation or emigration. I would recommend draining and fencing the lands to improve the condition of the people in this division. The majority of the holdings are small and of an inferior quality. Fifteen persons out of every twenty living in the divisions of Templeport, Bealbrook, Pedruvaghia, Kinawley, and portions of Swainlinbar and Terrilbar are in a starving condition on account of failure of the potato crop, and if it was not for the money sent from America, England and Scotland I fail to see how they could exist. In 1905 acute distress existed in the Swainlinbar County Division. The 13th section of the Local Government Act had to be put into operation before the people were relieved. There were relief works started. One of each family was allowed to work. The remuneration the farmer received was a shilling a day to keep his family from starving. The Swainlinbar County Division is deprived of any railroad accommodation although the people have to pay 6d. in the pound to the Carrick and Leitrim Light Railway as a guarantee, which I strongly recommend that they should be relieved from paying inasmuch as the railway is of no benefit to the Swainlinbar County Division. I would recommend that some of the grazing patches of the County Magh or the County Ros-

common be taken over, and that 50 per cent. of the farmers in this division migrate to those good lands. This would give the remaining portion an opportunity of living.

30174. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You allude to the failure of the potato crop of 1906 and the consequences; what proportion of an average crop had you in those poor districts?—In some portions along the mountain parts they had no potato crop. It was a complete failure owing to the wet season.

30175. Did the people spray?—Yes. It was difficult to find good enough weather for spraying last year, it was so wet.

30176. Both in 1905 and 1907 the people to sustain life required the institution of public employment?—Yes.

30177. Would it be your view then that it would be as well for the State to take hold in hands the work of pulling up that district to a satisfactory condition as to have the need of intervening in alternate years to institute public employment?—Yes. I would like to see the State take it up and make a permanent employment. With regard to industries, there should be a woolen mill started about the town of Swainlinbar, or a tannery. We have had a tan yard. It could be easily fired up. In the last seasons so many cattle die in this district that we would be easily able to supply the tan yard with hides.

30178. Sir FRANKS MOWATT.—If the cattle ceased from dying the tannery would be ruined?—I hope they will cease from dying.

MR. THOMAS M'ALLEN EXAMINED.

Mr. Thomas
M'Allen.

30179. Sir FRANKS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—Yes. I reside at Gortin, Swainlinbar. I have 25 acres. My rent is £7 15s. 2d., and my valuation £8.

30180. What points do you wish to bring before us?—The land is of poor quality, and the cold seasons have left the people in a state that they are not able to live on the land and they are in debt to the shopkeepers and to the banks. If the Government does not face the problem and give the people some employment they cannot live on the lands if the climate does not change. Except in a dry season between these two mountains the cold is so intense that the crops are kept very much back. With regard to the railway that is proposed, it is most necessary for the prosperity of the country. Buyers won't go to fairs and markets unless they have accommodation. Fairs and markets here in my own time have gone down greatly. You could count the people in the street now on a market day. In my own time it would take you a long time to go through the town on market day because of the throng. The existing railway is of no benefit except to a very old one in this district. Our communication is with Enniskillen, and the road is very hilly. At the District Council we passed a resolution, and there was not a dissentient voice except one, urging the member for West Cavan to do his best to induce the Government to make the line of railway that is required. We introduced it to the Board of Guardians, compelling the Leitrim men, at a crowded meeting and it was carried without a dissentient voice; and we have a memorial here signed urging you to use your best influence to promote that line.

30181. Where does the opposition come from?—From a small point from Ballycormell to Belmullet, about five miles.

30182. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Would you be prepared to give a bailment guarantee?—We should be prepared to pay the guarantee we are giving. We believe it was dropped and carried through Parliament. The line was surveyed, and every occupier whose land was to be taken was served with a notice asking whether he would consent or not to the line going through his land. It was to go through 100 parcels of farms.

30183. Sir FRANKS MOWATT.—Nothing further took place?—No. The district is thickly inhabited. The farms are small and of poor quality, and unless there is some employment the people would be better away in any country than there.

30184. What employment do you suggest?—If there were a railway the mines might be worked. There were mines in Swainlinbar 100 years ago. The mountains are very rich in minerals and coal. There are both in the mountains 14 miles from the town.

30185. Were there over coal mines in the mountains?—Coal was discovered, and used here in the fairs of the town. The rent is paid chiefly by the money which the small farmers receive from America. In Swainlinbar Post Office in December, 1906, and January, 1907, £277 15s. 1d. and £206 6s. 11d. of American money were cashed. Within the last three years the people who are able to work emigrate, but if there is a person not able to face the world he is left there.

MR. HUGH MAGUIRE EXAMINED.

Mr. Hugh
Maguire.

30186. Sir FRANKS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—Yes. I reside at Aughally, Swainlinbar. I have 40 acres. My rent is £7, and my valuation £8. There are nine or ten of the townlands where I am in which last year the potato crop was a total failure, and in the other the crop was very bad. In these places at the back of the mountain the average yield of potatoes is not more than two tons to the acre.

30187. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What would be the average produce in other places?—It would be three times that. The oats average only from 12 to 14 cwt. to the acre. The people in general are very badly off. They have nothing to labour at. They would be only too glad to work if they could get it.

There are no fairs and markets at present. Twenty or thirty years ago the weekly market in Swainlinbar was held every Saturday, and it was better attended than the monthly fair is now. I believe the principal reason of that is that there are no railway facilities at all, and no accommodation. They are 12 or 14 miles from Enniskillen, and in four or five towns they have to take their produce on donkeys' backs to get to a road, there is no other means of getting it to a road on which they could not have a cart.

30188. Sir FRANKS MOWATT.—Was not that condition of things existing when you say things were so much better? They had no more railway communication than there now?—No, but times

were better than they are now; but it would improve the condition of the people.

32150. I understood you to say that the reasons things are worse now than long ago is because there is no railway, but there was no railway then; so there must be some other reason?—It is a general fact that the land is of less value than twenty-five years ago. I think it is a public question that the land has gone down in value.

32150. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Price of farming produce have increased?—Prices are reduced.

32151. In the last thirty years?—Especially in the last twenty years, the price of farm produce are reduced, and I believe that every other person in court believes the same. Cows were a better cow twenty-five years ago. If we had some little works it would enable the poor to tide over. This is a very bad summer; I believe the worst since 1879 or 1880. There was a road about to be made about two English miles

in length. Part of it was in the County Cavan and part in the County Fermanagh. The Earl of Erne's father said it was the most necessary road he ever walked on. He gave a sort of a promise that as soon as the Cavan portion was about to be made he would get the County Fermanagh portion made. In 1881, under the Relief of Distress Act, the County Cavan portion was made to the verge of Fermanagh. There it remains. About 100 farmers' families have to take their dead down that way to bury them in the churchyard there, and they have no road.

32152. Was he Chairman of the Fermanagh Grand Jury?—Yes. I was present when he gave the guarantee that the Fermanagh portion would be made if the Cavan portion was made. There is a block there now between the two counties. When people come that far they are stopped. If the road were finished it would afford employment and give much-needed accommodation.

May 29, 1887.

Mr. Hugh Nagle.

Rev. OWEN BRADY examined.

32153. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What particular points would you wish to bring before us?—I see Parish Priest of Cullough, between this and Ballinacorney. It is a very mountainous district, and contains the county electoral divisions of Northwick, Templeport, and Pedrovahen. These places are so poor, that for these last twenty years, during which I have been there, we have had relief of distress five times. Were it not for that the people could not live. In a wet season the potato crop is an utter failure, and in addition the grazing portion has no better-making power in it, so that the small farmers have very little to gain from the produce of their cattle.

32154. Do most of them keep pigs?—Yes. They always try to feed pigs, but they often have to contract shop debts to buy feeding for the pigs to pay the rent in November.

32155. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Bendrick is the electoral division whose valuation is down to nineteen shillings per head?—Yes. Templeport is not so low as that. It is £1 5s. Pedrovahen is equally low. The grass there is of very little use for producing butter. I have farmed myself since I came to the parish. I have tried to pick the best quality of cattle for producing butter, and I found that a cow in another place would be worth two or three of the cows that I can feed. I would recommend that these divisions should be scheduled, and that the Board should be increased in power and revenue and should adopt a scheme for planting the mountains, and also for field planting, and also for increasing horticulture. The best way for that, in my opinion, would be to establish local nurseries. There is very little use in the Department of Agriculture sending round instructors in this matter while it is almost impossible for the people to carry out the instruction in practice. The plants are very difficult for the poor people to obtain. If these local nurseries were established the people could get the young trees at convenient prices, and at convenient distances, and also there should be a man there to show them how to plant them. To my point the people there, if they were once instructed in the work, would have the best soil perhaps in Ireland for growing fruit.

32156. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—What class of fruit?—Apple trees. I planted some apple trees myself within the last four years, and never saw better apples in my life than the produce of last year and the year before.

32157. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Why could not you make better use of a county like that?—The soil that is suitable for producing apples is not suitable for producing butter. The grass is very light and delicate. The soil is not more than about six inches deep, so that the grass on it has no better-making power in it.

32158. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is it good sheep land?—We have no sheep land except in very rare patches. The soil there is covered over with rushes and moss. There is no herbage for sheep.

32159. That might be improved by drainage?—Yes. I am very glad you have reminded me of that. I would recommend drainage of the mountain sides, and of the bogs, and also of the making of roads. It would be a great improvement to the county to have a large belt of the mountains planted. It would improve the climate, give shelter to the animals grazing, and it would, after some time, be valuable for supplying the country with wood, which is getting very scarce in Ireland, especially with us.

32160. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Is fuel becoming scarce?—We have at present a good share of bogs, but to my own knowledge the bog is decreasing very fast. They have to supply the towns of Ballinacorney and Banagher with turf out of that place, and on that account the bog is going very rapidly.

32161. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do the occupiers sell the turf in the towns?—Yes. They often have to sell it to buy some meal and flour. That is the principal means of keeping up a large number of families.

32162. You have been there for twenty years?—Yes. I have been Parish Priest for five years, and I was curate from 1867.

32163. During that time you have said it has been necessary to promote relief works five times?—Yes, since I went there. On one occasion the Government gave us so large a sum as £2,300.

32164. You look upon it as most objectionable to have to establish relief works?—Yes; we have to do it too often.

32165. You consider that it would be very much better to lift up the condition of the people and make them independent of that necessity?—Yes. It would be a good thing if we got a proper breed of cattle. The shorthorn is not fit for us at all. It would be well if we could go back more to the old Irish breed. I suppose that could scarcely be brought about, but if the Kerry breed was introduced it would be more suited to our climate and soil.

Rev. Owen Brady.

Mr. JAMES CLARY examined.

32166. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—I reside in Belleek, and am a farmer and hotel-keeper. My rent is £15 10s., and my valuation £53. The farm is close to Belleek. I was asked to represent the divisions of Belleek, Castledillon, and Mullaghmore. The total population of Mullaghmore is 177, and the valuation £150 3s., which is only nineteen shillings per head.

32167. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—That is the poorest district in Fermanagh?—Yes, and perhaps in all Ireland. It has no holding above £20, one above £20, one above £15, and one above £10. In Castledillon

there is a population of 457, and the valuation works out at 25 shillings per unit. In Belleek the population is 722, and the valuation is 35 shillings per unit. In Belleek there are four persons with a valuation of £250 15s., which when deducted lowers the average valuation of the rest of the population, who gain nothing whatever by these high-valued people. In Castledillon there are three persons with a valuation of £250, almost one-half of the total valuation on a population of 457. In Mullaghmore there are no persons of large valuation. In Belleek there is grazing land with 340 acres without

Mr. James Clary.

May 29, 1907.
Mr. James
Clancy.

any population, and there is waste land, 928 acres; billy, mountain land, with nothing but heather and bog.

36003. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—In whose hands is this waste land?—In the landlord's hands. There are some tenants now upon part of it.

36008. They pay something?—It must not be much. The total valuation of the 928 acres is only £32. In Castledillon district there is grazing land—600 acres.

36015. That is these two large holdings we have got down there?—Yes. That holding did not belong to Mr. Bloomfield, of Castledillon. It is now owned by mortgagors. The waste land in that division, amounting to 605 acres, is the same class of land as the 928 acres that I told you of in Belleek.

36021. The point you make is that these large holdings ought somehow or other to be obtained from their present owners and divided among the small tenants?—That is my point as far as that is concerned. There is 245 acres in the Belleek division that are used for grazing and meadowing, and the grazing cattle are taken in from screens and others. The owners, I have no doubt at all, that if they were approached they would take a reasonable value for it. It would be necessary for the tenants on the small holdings in poor districts in the same division who have no hay on their lands. They could get a supply here. If it was divided among them it would not be necessary to build houses, if purchased, and there would be very little expense except the purchase of the land. The same

applies to Castledillon. The mortgagors, I understand, are about to sell these about 600 acres, which would be a great advantage to the 437 of a population in the same division. As to the waste land, I would suggest that the billy portions should be planted, and the valleys drained, then the hills would be a shelter for sheep and cattle, and the valleys could grow a great deal of pasture where they can grow nothing now. There are two lakes, one in the Belleek and another in the Castledillon division, which have a very bad outlet to Lough Erne. It would be a very great advantage to drain these two; and then the most of the valleys that I speak of could be drained into these lakes. There are very few places where it is so easy to get the land as in this district, in Castledillon especially, where they are about to sell all I speak of. If we could get under the Congested Districts Board it would be a wise course, for if they purchase the worst land along with the grazing lands, they could plant them, and they could also allow some of the tenants who have got better lands to use for planting. Some thirty-three years ago iron works in the immediate vicinity of Belleek were worked by a large English coal and iron company. They worked it for about three years, and were getting on very well. Then they wanted to get a long lease, and the landlord, Mr. Bloomfield, wanted to get a long rent. They differed on their terms, and the company took away the engines that they had for keeping of the water, and the whole machinery, and nothing has been heard of it since.

Rev. P. B. MALLON examined.

Rev. P. B.
Mallon.

36012. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You are stationed at Down?—At Donnelly, Down. I have been appointed to give evidence by the Banisken Rural District Council No. 2 and the Donnelly Branch of the United Irish League. I work, in the main, to confine my remarks to the Donnelly district, with which I am more immediately connected. Donnelly which is better known as the Marley estate, comprises an area of 12,730 acres, made up of small holdings for the most part, whose rental charge is far below that which would qualify the district to be scheduled as congested. With the exception of about a dozen holdings all the small farms on the estate might be classed as uneconomic and non-agricultural. The soil is exceedingly poor and unfruitful, and wholly unsuited under present conditions for crop raising. The only portions available for tillage are the broadway strips of valley, a very small part of which can be apportioned to each tenant; and even on these strips the quality of the crops raised is very inferior as they rarely, on account of climatic conditions, come to the same state of maturity that they do in other parts of Ireland. The River Shannon runs almost through the centre of the district, and the annual floods render all lands under the high-water level absolutely useless for any purpose except grazing. This overflowing of the Shannon can be only remedied by extensive dredging at its entrance into Lough Allen, and that only partially. To be permanently remedied the level of Lough Allen would have to be considerably lowered. The main damage is caused by the backwater in the tributary rivers when the Shannon is in flood. There are considerably over 1,000 acres of the best part of the property under grazing farms, a great portion adjoining the most congested areas, and the owners of these farms are, I believe, quite willing to part with them. This is a general outline of the district. The condition of living of the people in it is what might be expected; a condition of chronic poverty and endless struggle against adverse circumstances; and until these adverse circumstances are removed there can never be any real material progress amongst them. Foremost and greatest amongst these is the burden of landlordism, which has weighed heavily upon them for generations, and has paralysed all general and individual efforts. It will take many years to remove from the character and the habits of the people the evil results of this system, which was a curse when it might have been a blessing. Happily there is a strong prospect of a final ending to this state of things, as the Estates Commissioners have had the property inspected, and are examining the reports of their inspectors with a view to effecting a purchase from the syndicate who are now the owners. Other

adverse circumstances are a lack of the proper means and methods for working their small holdings profitably; the wretched living accommodations of many of their homes and want of suitable housing accommodation for their cattle. Naturally industries do not flourish in the district still there are a few enjoying a precarious existence. Spinning and weaving were engaged in some years ago to a considerable extent and very excellent and durable material turned out cheaply. At present the number of spinning wheels is becoming rapidly smaller, not through any fault of the spinners, but because the old wheels are worn out and they do not know where to get new ones, and many of them cannot afford to buy them.

36013. Can they find a market for the stuff that they turn out?—Yes, but it would be better to confine them to making clothing for themselves, because there is a great deal of money paid for cheap, useless material for clothing by the people, and they could make better material for themselves and save that money.

36024. You say that is really coming to an end, because they cannot afford to get new wheels?—They don't know where to get new spinning wheels.

36025. Is it that they cannot be bought, or that they have no money to buy them?—Some of them have not the money to buy them. There is a general lack of interest in the industry, because it is the old people who are able to spin and the young people don't remain at home to learn the spinning.

36026. You have given us two or three rather inconsistent causes for the same result. You have told us first that the people were anxious to continue the industry, but could not get the spinning wheels?—Yes.

36027. Now you say that the young people don't want to spin at all?—You asked us why this was so. They don't want to, because they cannot get the wheels and the materials in the industry was dying out because the young people were not brought up to it. There are two or three hand looms in the district which are kept at work constantly and turn out very fine tweeds and fannels. This is an industry which the Congested Districts Board could do a good deal to re-encourage, and it would be of incalculable service to the people in some ways than one.

36028. Are these stuffs sold or used by the people for their own clothing?—They are used for their own clothing. Butter-making at home is carried on to a large extent, and much could be done to improve this home industry. Whatever may be said for the introduction of crochets in rich pastoral districts, their introduction to an impoverished district like ours is a decided calamity, as the people send the best part of milk out of their homes to the creamery to catch

the ready penny, and the consequences are painfully evident in those creamy areas in the appearance of physical deterioration, particularly of the young children.

30210. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—They don't get sufficient milk?—Yes. They sell the milk to the creameries, and the result is that the children are badly nourished and don't look as well as children in places where the milk is kept at home and churned at home.

30221. In a poor district would a system of cottage dairies be better?—Yes. In these poorer districts a far better substitute for creameries would be better factories, to which the fresh butter, home-drawn, could be sent and prepared by an experienced butter-maker for the market. There is not any dairy accommodation in the district. It is a mistake to have creameries, because they cannot be supplied properly.

30221. Mr. KATHMAGE.—It is not the fault of the creamery system that the children are starved. It is the fault of the parents who send too much milk to the creameries without reserving any for home use?—Yes. If that could be remedied the creamery system might be better.

30222. In other districts we have heard evidence greatly in favour of creameries; not in rich districts either, though in districts not so poor as that of which you are speaking?—That is the general opinion of the creameries, that they are no benefit. My own point of view would be the same in the interests of the children.

30223. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—There is no compulsion to send too much milk to the creamery?—No, but there is the temptation.

30224. Why do people sell good food and buy bad food?—They are trying to get money for their milk. Of course it is the general poverty of the country that is responsible for it. They are anxious to make

money, and that is the handiest way they have of doing it. May 29, 1907.

30225. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—In feeding the children with the separated milk do they get oatmeal in it?—They don't feed the children with separated milk. They give it with starch. One of the most evil results of congestions here and the consequent migration and emigration of the strong young people from the country is the great block to the progress of education through the children having to leave school to help at home and farm work long before they reach the end of the ordinary curriculum of National schools. This is a great pity, as the children are unusually bright and have excellent teachers, and those of them who have had opportunities of obtaining a good education are making a way in life very successfully. There is no doubt that this district is a model district for the working of the Congested Districts Board with great and beneficial results. The people are naturally keen and industrious, and anxious to take advantage of any means that will further their material welfare and better their homes and farms. They have no longer to fear the increase in rent which invariably followed any improvements, as in years past. I may be pardoned for suggesting to the Commission that their efforts to aid and improve the people and the country should be carried on in a broad and democratic spirit, so that our people may not be made feel that they are the recipients of charitable doles, and their self-respect and independence of character suffer in consequence; in that case the cure would be ultimately as bad as the disease.

30226. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—From what you have told us, would not it be an improvement in your district if there was a system of loans to enable the people to get looms and improved spinning wheels, just as fishermen get boats?—Yes. Anything that would not leave them under the impression that they are getting charity.

Mr. JOHN DUNSMY EXAMINED.

30227. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—Yes. I reside at Ardlogher, Beltsford. I have 29 statute acres. My rent is £11 15s., and my valuation £11 15s. The floods in my neighbourhood are very ruinous. After two nights' rain the river overflows on to the meadows, and robs us in every respect. In 1903 I lost 30 cows of hay, and my neighbour lost 37. From Balindara Bridge to Augermore, a distance of seven miles, the Bag River, which is a tributary of the Erne, is not in the shape of a river at all. It is merely the accident of the water. It was never sunk by man. It is merely joining a few places where there are mills.

30228. Could it be directed somewhere else?—It should be sunk or a passage made for the water to go away instead of going on the land. It is a most lamentable case. The Balindara Bridge is seven miles from Killybegs.

30229. Your point is, some effort might be made to make some attempt to deepen the river?—Yes, to take away the surface water itself.

30230. About seven miles wants clearing?—Yes. The landed party never took any interest in it at all. Their only interest was to take the rent and let the tenants suffer as they might with the water.

30231. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You have not bought out yet?—No.

30232. Mr. O'KELLY.—How many acres of your holding are flooded every year?—About half of it is flooded for eight months of the year.

Mr. PETER M'CAWNEY EXAMINED.

30242. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—Yes. I live at Clinginstown, Ballyvaughan. I have 78 acres; my rent is £28 5s., and my valuation £26 11s.

30243. What particular point do you want us to consider?—I am flooded with water and drowned the half of the year. In two years I lost about thirty cows of hay.

30244. Is it in the same district and caused by the same river that the last witness referred to?—No. It

is in another locality altogether. In 1879 I lost every cow of hay I had except one. This time three years I could not cut my meadow with the floods. I made a bank by myself along the edge of the river, but the water came back on the other side. The whole country from Ballyvaughan to Ballymaginn, four miles long, and including hundreds of acres, is subject to flooding, and the Ballymaginn lake is choked up, so there is no outlet for the river.

30233. That means that the land is worth nothing to you for about ten months of the year?—Yes. It is not actually flooded all the time, but it is subject to flooding after twenty-four hours' rain.

30234. You cannot leave your cattle on it for a month or six weeks?—No. They may go on it, but they eat nothing on it because it is covered with dirt.

30235. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Have you any other point?—No; only that we want to get rid of the water. We have Commission after Commission sitting from year to year, with plenty of talk but no results.

30236. We have no power to do anything beyond making a statement for the information of the Government of the information that we get on the spot, but we have no power to carry out any recommendations that are made?—What we want is that you may put it strongly, so that it may be carried out.

30237. Mr. O'KELLY.—When had you the last Commission?—We had an inquiry into this matter lately at Enniskillen, but there were no results.

30238. Was it in last August?—Yes.

30239. Before that what Commission had you?—I don't know that we had any on drainage.

30240. Had you any on anything else?—There were several Commissions sat from year to year. There were reports and no results.

30241. What was the one before last August?—I don't remember. There have been several Commissions appointed to inquire into the grievances and wants of Ireland, and no results have followed.

30242. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—Yes. I live at Clinginstown, Ballyvaughan. I have 78 acres; my rent is £28 5s., and my valuation £26 11s.

30243. What particular point do you want us to consider?—I am flooded with water and drowned the half of the year. In two years I lost about thirty cows of hay.

30244. Is it in the same district and caused by the same river that the last witness referred to?—No. It

Mr. Peter M'Cauney

May 25, 1907.
 Mr. Peter
 McCaffrey.

39245. So that generally what you want is arterial drainages?—Yes, and to have the lake opened so that there might be an outlet for the water of the river when the flood comes.

39246. Apparently from the map it is a terribly difficult country to drain?—It is. One night's rain would leave us six feet deep of water.

Mr. MICHAEL O'BRIEN examined.

Mr. Michael
 O'Brien.

39247. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You reside at Mankagh, Bawnboy?—Yes. What I think has not been sufficiently impressed on the Commission is the necessity of making a road connecting Slieve Russell with Caidra Mill. There are three miles to be made across the top connecting Ballyconnell with the district of Kinnawley. The object of making it would be to provide a road through the mountains for turbarry, which has become very scarce, and to connect the roads that were made fifty or sixty years ago up the mountain on all sides. I would suggest that all the mountains from Swantinagh to Ballyconnell, and from Ballyconnell to Derrylin should be included in the congested districts. The valuation may appear high if you take the Government returns for townlands extending up the mountain from the good lowland, but I have one townland marked out where the valuation is only 2s. 3d. per acre, or about 10s. per head. The townland has 207 acres; there are six families on it, and the valuation of the whole townland is 222 10s., and may be taken as a fair example of the thinly-populated lands all along the sides of Slieve Russell Mountain.

39248. Your proposal is that a road be made along the top of the mountain, joining the roads on the side, so that as turbarry becomes scarce in the neighbourhood this turbarry should be available?—Yes; to supply turbarry to all the lowlands. When the roads were made twenty years ago they were made uphill and down hill. It would be necessary to have small grants to improve these now.

39249. Who owns the turbarry lands?—It is wild commonsage. It belongs to the landlord.

39250. You think that we should make a road for the landlord to get turf down?—No, but for the tenants to get the turf.

39251. Mr. SCOTCHLAND.—The landlord is getting the rent?—Yes.

39252. What will he give?—Landlords will give very little now.

39253. It is an improvement on his estate?—Yes, but it would go in giving valuable employment to the people all round the mountain side, who very often need such assistance to enable them to subsist on their wretched holdings.

39254. You don't make a road as a means of employment, but as a means of communication?—Both for giving employment and as a means of communication.

39255. There is nobody living on this mountain?—There is not.

39256. It would be rather hard to call it a congested district with nobody living on it?—It belongs to this land around here (indicates on map). The Bawnboy Union is likely to be absorbed into some other union, and in that event I would suggest that a woollen factory be started in the vacant workhouse, as the industry would be a very valuable one. If the proposed road were made the mountain would be valuable for reforestation.

39257. After the turbarry is taken off?—Yes. On the greater part at present there is no turbarry.

39258. Would timber grow on that exposed position?—Yes. It is nothing worse than the mountains I have seen planted in Scotland, and elsewhere.

The Commission adjourned.

SEVENTY-EIGHTH PUBLIC SITTING.

FRIDAY, MAY 31st, 1907,

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.,

At Maryborough.

Present.—The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B. (in the Chair); WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Mr. P. A. MURPHY PRESIDING.

30252. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT (in the chair).—You reside in Maryborough?—Yes.

30253. You are a Member of Parliament for the division of the county?—I am a member for the Leix division of the Queen's County, sir.

30254. You are also Chairman of the County Council?—Yes, sir.

30255. You have handed in a detail—a skeleton—of the evidence you desire to give?—Yes, sir.

30256. If you have prepared any statement, perhaps the best way would be for you to make it, and we will ask you to pause when we come to any point on which we desire to ask you any question suggested by your statement?—Yes, sir. The statement which I mean to give on behalf of the County Council, which appointed me to come here to give evidence deals mainly with the terms of reference where it reads: "What areas, if any, outside the districts now scheduled as congested require to be dealt with on congested; what lands are most conveniently situated for the relief of congestion; what changes in law or administration are needed for dealing with the problem of congestion as a whole, for facilitating the migration of the surplus population from congested areas to other lands, and generally for bettering the condition of the people inhabiting congested areas?" It is with that portion of the terms of reference I intend to deal and to submit a few facts in connection with it. Now, with regard to the first part it will be found that the small holdings of one acre in Queen's County amount to 2,105.

30257. Mr. KAVANAGH.—That includes labourers' plots?—Yes. Now, as compared with the County of Mayo, there are 1,681 similar holdings in the County Mayo; in County Donegal there are 1,433, consequently the figures show that in Queen's County there is a much larger number of small holdings.

30258. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are these agricultural holdings, or are they residential with the land as a mere appendage to them?—I am struck with the number of small holdings that exist here as compared with the other counties we saw?—Well, I have not analysed the figures.

30259. But you see the importance of our knowing whether they are real agricultural holdings or not, because it is striking that in these two counties of Donegal and Mayo, which are par excellence, the small holdings counties of Ireland, should be so much less than Queen's County?—I have not analysed the figures, but speaking from my personal knowledge of the county I imagine that the holdings are small agricultural holdings; the number does not include labourers' cottages, and may possibly include gate-houses, entrances to dovecotes, and so on.

30260. But you think that would not materially affect the total, would it?—I do not think it would.

30261. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—May I put it in another way—do you regard the large majority at all events of these very small holdings as holdings to which the occupants look to make a livelihood?—Well, yes, they are; the occupant looks to casual employment in addition to what he can make out of his small holding as a means of living.

30262. But you say that his small holding provides the greater part of his living?—Well, I should not

like to say the greater part; I think the labourer would be the greater part of what he has to depend on for his support and the support of his family.

30270. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Then are these 2,105 holdings such as you would suggest ought to be enlarged, Mr. Mowatt—you are talking of obtaining land to enlarge small holdings—would you include them—they are practically labourers, are not they?—Yes.

30271. Well, supposing you enlarge each of their holdings, would not you take away the labour of the whole country, or practically so?—No, sir; that is not the idea with which I submit the return. My idea is, and it will be found, I think, that the majority of these small holdings are holdings situated convenient to bogs—sometimes, nearly always, are cut-away bogs where the people get a settlement. My idea is that these holdings should be enlarged to, say, three or five acres.

30272. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—May I point out to you, sir, that in the statistics of the county the total number of agricultural holdings up to 24 valuation in the whole county is given as 2,508; it would seem hard to tally with 2,105 under 21.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—Under one acre?—Well, some of the holdings in the figures you have quoted may include holdings that do not amount to an acre; they may include holdings that have not a bit of land at all.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—No, I think not, because that would not be an agricultural holding; these are purely agricultural holdings.

30273. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—There are a very large number—we may take it for granted?—It will be found that Queen's County is one-third in area and population of Mayo or Donegal, and the small holdings in Queen's County exceed Donegal by two to one, and Mayo by five to three, proving, I think, that some action is necessary to deal with this question to provide the people in Queen's County with increased holdings in order to relieve congestion and give them a better opportunity of living, to relieve them from absolute dependence on casual labour. Now, with regard to the schedule which I have just handed in,* it gives a return of holdings not exceeding ten statute acres, excluding holdings acquired under the Labourers' Acts, and holdings as far as can be ascertained occupied by persons having additional land elsewhere; this return excludes people having land on any other estate. In the electoral division of Ballyke there are 130 such holdings.

30276. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Would it be the case to say that, speaking on an average, ten statute acres represent approximately 25 valuation?—About 25. I could get you the exact figures from the book. These divisions are situated in the Mountmellick rural district. In the electoral division of Curlew there are seventy-six small holdings. With regard to the question of land being available in Ballyke, there is a very large holding of 240 acres occupied by a gentleman who is a business man and who has recently acquired a farm of 120 acres.

30277. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Now, in my opinion it is absolutely necessary, and I think it will be admitted that some of the land should be acquired in the district for the relief of congestion, and to provide people with economic holdings. I think the

May 31, 1907,
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Mr. P. A.
Murphy.

* See page 308. Table A.

May 21, 1907. Estates Commissioners should acquire that 139 acres from Mr. Rafter.

39278. I understand you to say that this man possesses 240 acres and has purchased 139 acres additional—is that 139 acres grazing, or is it under tillage?—It is in the occupation of the gentleman who has recently bought it. I cannot say whether he is using it at present as a tillage farm, but for many years it was used as a grazing farm. I find that Mr. Rafter's total holding amounts to 240 acres, which includes the 139.

39279. But you don't know whether that is grazing land or under tillage?—I cannot say whether it is under tillage at present, but for twenty years of which I have a knowledge it was used as a grazing farm.

39280. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is there a residence on it?—There is.

39281. Is it used?—It is not occupied to my knowledge at present.

39282. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Then the owner is non-resident?—Non-resident. He lives about four miles from this farm. There is another farm in the same neighbourhood, and I understand the occupier would be willing to sell; it is used at present, and has been for many years, probably twenty years or more, as a grazing farm; I refer to the holding of Mr. James Clear; it is not in the townland of Ballyfin, but in the next townland. I think these two farms if acquired, giving just compensation, of course, to the occupiers and owners, would go a long way to relieve congestion in the district; it is all good land, and would be very suitable for the purpose.

39283. What is the acreage of the second farm that you mention?—I think it is something like eighty acres.

39284. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—And is it adjacent to small holdings?—It is adjacent to this townland of Ballyfin.

39285. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—With reference to what you have said as to the great advantage of the acquisition and division amongst small holders of these two holdings, what is the limit of acreage at which you think a holding should be acquired for the benefit of small holders? Would you allow eighty acres? From the evidence we have had it is rather a small maximum to define comparatively. You are not in favour of allowing any tillage holding of eighty acres to be left in one man's hands?—I don't object at all to eighty acres, or even more, if it is used as a mixed farm—that is, both grazing and tillage; but where a farm is used exclusively as a grazing ranch, and where there are small uneconomic holdings in the district, in my opinion it is imperatively necessary to give the people an opportunity of living in decency and comfort that these grazing ranches should be acquired, and divided amongst uneconomic holders. I do not fix any number of acres. I would say whatever number of acres having regard to the nature of the land as with proper cultivation, care, and attention will give the occupier a decent living, would constitute an economic holding.

39286. That is what I want to get at. You distinguish between what you mention as grazing ranches for that purpose and farms under tillage?—Certainly.

39287. The 240 acres is, I think, to some extent under tillage now?—I don't know whether it is under tillage now, but I remember it, I say, for twenty years, and it was always in grass, and set sometimes under the eleven months' system, and that is why I refer to it. I don't know of my own knowledge at the present moment whether the present occupier is tilling any portion of it, but my point is that this is a gentleman with other occupations, a wealthy man. He is in occupation of 100 acres without this, and I think the interest of the general body of the people of the district makes it necessary that some land should be acquired in the neighbourhood, and I don't know of any place more suitable than this farm.

39288. Mr. KAVANAGH.—From your knowledge of the land of the Queen's County, what would you say is the size of an economic holding?—That would depend, Mr. Kavanagh, as I said before, on the quality of the land. A farm of ten acres if of very good land might be an economic holding; a farm of forty acres of very bad land would not be an economic holding.

39289. Well, we had the pleasure of seeing some of the very best land of Meath cut up amongst small

holders, and they did not seem to believe that ten acres was an economic holding?—Well, I think some of our people in the Queen's County would be very glad to get ten acres of land similar to the land in the County Meath; but what our small holders have, as a general rule, are small holdings in the neighbourhood of bogs that have been reclaimed from their original state by their labour.

39290. You could not lay down any particular number of acres from your knowledge of the Queen's County?—I should not like to do that; as I said it depends on the quality of the land.

39291. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Or could you suggest the average of valuation? For instance, we have the classification of holdings not exceeding 24, above 24, and not exceeding 40; would you take as an average the second of these categories—that the holdings should be above 24 and up to 40?—Well, I should not like right off to give an answer to that. The valuation in some cases is not a true indication of the value of the land. Now, if I may, I will take the divisions of Castlebliss and Cappalough: in Castlebliss there are seventy-six holdings under ten statute acres, in Cappalough there are forty-eight; now there is in this division a large grazing ranch of 480 acres; this grazing ranch was held by a gentleman who is the owner and manager of one of the largest business establishments in the Midland counties of Ireland.

39292. Does he reside on the ranch? Is there any residence on the ranch?—A herd's house. In my opinion the owner should receive, of course, just compensation for the surrender of the whole or the greater part of that grazing ranch—I don't know that there is any other land available in the district—and that land should be divided amongst the people.

39293. Are you quoting that place as adequate for small holdings in Cappalough and Castlebliss?—Cappalough and Castlebliss.

39294. Is it in two unions, or the same?—It is in the same union. I think this holding is in the division of Cappalough.

39295. Do you think a residence in one of the unions would not affect a man being brought in from the next union and getting portion of that land?—Well, I don't think so; I don't see that they would have any right to object. The next division is Clonsilla, with 59 holdings; Dangan, 47; Garrymoor, 38; Graigue, 31; Moelick, 51; O'Moore's Forest, 66; Bearymore, 27; Rosanville, 37; Tinnahinch, 54. I am not aware that there are any lands in any of these divisions that could be made available by purchase for allotment amongst uneconomic holders. There is one family who hold 1,000 acres in Bearymore.

39296. One family?—Well, it is in two valuations; and I think the whole 1,000 is occupied by two gentlemen.

39297. Which union do you say that is in?—It is in Mountmellick Union. As I say, I am not aware that there are any other lands available in the electoral divisions I have mentioned, but there is an estate of very good land of about 250 acres, and I think it is in the owner's hands, and I am informed that the owner is quite willing to sell. It is the estate of Mrs. Adair, at Ballybrittas. If those 250 acres were made available for allotment I think it would relieve congestion in the districts I have mentioned, and that economic holdings could be provided by removing some of the people to those good lands at Ballybrittas and adding together some of the small holdings that at present exist.

39298. Is the estate that you mention grazing or under tillage?—It is partly grazing and partly under tillage; but I am informed that Mrs. Adair is prepared to sell to the Estates Commissioners.

39299. Is she at present residential?—No; the residence was burned down some years ago, and there is no residence upon it.

39300. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Who is using the farm at present?—Mrs. Adair is in occupation of the place herself.

39301. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That practically, I think, suggests that 1,100 acres are available, if they could be acquired, for increasing the uneconomic holdings in the Mountmellick Union?—Mountmellick Union; of course, my evidence is dealing with that union will be supplemented by other gentlemen. Now, with your permission, we will go to the neighbouring union of Abbeyfeich. In the townland of Blandfeich there are

thirty-eight holdings under ten statute acres, and I suggest as lands suitable to be acquired the lands outside the Blackford demesne, from which the people were evicted forty years ago. These lands are at present in the hands of the owner of the estate, and they are outside his demesne, and I think they should be acquired for the purpose of re-instating the representatives of those who were evicted, and if they are not available for the purpose of providing economic holdings.

38302. Is that grazing or under tillage?—I think it is all grazing; I will not say for certain, sir. In the townland of Clack there are sixty-two holdings under ten statute acres, and there is one holding, namely, I believe, grazing, in the occupation of Major Marsh, of 860 acres.

38303. That is residential?—It is.

38304. I understand the object of the proposal is to raise to a £10 valuation practically the small holdings. Would you be disposed to give any of the land that is required to people whose holdings were above a £10 valuation?—I think I have stated before I would not confine myself to any particular number of acres. The point I wish to make is that every occupier should be in the occupation of an economic holding, and that depends on the quality of the land; it might be ten acres or fifteen acres. In the townland of Clack there are seventy-four holdings under ten statute acres. The townland of Clackmore will be dealt with by Father Kennedy, and I will not dwell on that particular case. In Cullough there are thirteen such holdings. Cullough is a district, I may observe, that suffered very severely some sixty years ago. The whole population of the district were practically evicted. There is a large grazing ranch there of nearly 400 acres; that grazing ranch was the place from which the people were evicted.

38305. Will you explain exactly "practically evicted"?—Well, I should not have used the word "practically." I say the people in that particular district were evicted. There were over 100 families, and if you average these at four in each family, which is a small average, you have 400 people evicted from that district. There are large grazing farms, one in particular of 400 acres; it is a grazing ranch. The occupier is non-resident, and I should like to see that grazing ranch acquired by the Estates Commissioners and divided into suitable holdings for the people of that and the neighbouring estate who are living on economic holdings. In addition to that grazing ranch in Cullough there is in the immediate neighbourhood, I think, a small farm of which Mrs. Adair is also the landlord. I can't say just now whether she is occupying the place at present, but in case she is I think that is also a farm that should be acquired. It adjoins the county road, and would be eminently suitable for allotment amongst tenants. In Kabeen there are seventy-three such holdings; that case will also be dealt with by Father Kennedy. In Timahoe there are eighteen such holdings; in Garryglass there are six. In the townland of Garryglass, I am very glad to say, some of the grazing ranches have been surrendered, and there is a good prospect that the others will be surrendered, and that a satisfactory settlement will be made in that particular townland to give the people economic holdings and a prospect of a successful future.

38306. Is that an arrangement between the owner and the tenants?—It is an arrangement that the public opinion of the district has brought about.

38307. Yes, but is it the case that the Estates Commissioners have been brought in, or is it a direct bargain between the owner and the tenants?—The circumstances shortly are these: The estate was sold to the tenants, and there were some 320 acres of untenanted land. On the eve of the sale these 320 acres were divided amongst four people who were already in possession of land in another portion of the estate of 600 acres. A protest was made. One of the gentlemen who got the allotment surrendered it to the Estates Commissioners; another has since surrendered, and we have good reason to believe that the other two will surrender, and that the land will be available.

38308. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—And who is carrying on the transaction, Mr. Meenan?—It is mainly carried on by the local branch of the United Irish League.

38309. And are they negotiating for the purchase of the land?—They are negotiating through the Estates Commissioners.

38310. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—We have not the slightest desire to curtail the evidence given before us.

but would it be sufficient, without going through each particular piece of grass land, but to state generally, after the illustrations you have given us, that you are in favour of the purchase of the grass lands in each of these unions or electoral divisions which are required to raise economic holdings to the economic limit?—That is the very point I wish to establish.

38311. Well, if you are done with that we need not trouble you to give the names of the particular farms available unless you wish in any particular case to quote it as a general illustration. Do exactly as you please in the matter, but I point out to you that you are either wasting your time if you take out a whole list of examples throughout whole unions if you have stated sufficient in your opinion to establish a point?—I do not wish to go into any more than is absolutely necessary. If you think the point is sufficiently established I am satisfied, but there are one or two other points I wish to put before you.

38312. Mr. KARAN.—Mr. Meenan, do you consider you have enough available grass lands in these Unions you have mentioned to satisfy the requirements of the district, or would you have to go outside the Unions? To raise all the economic holdings to the standard of economic holdings have you enough grass lands in these Unions to satisfy their wants?—I am not prepared to say there are, but if there were not I think it would be quite proper.

38313. I am not questioning that; I am merely asking your opinion whether there is sufficient in these districts to satisfy the wants of the districts?—In some there are; in some there are not.

38314. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Could you kindly give us the sum of the acreage that would be available for the purposes?—I will make out a return and check it with the book and hand it in to the Secretary.* There are just one or two cases I desire to mention. The case of Timahoe—25 small holdings—in this case there is a farm of 130 acres and the occupier, I believe, would be willing to sell. In the townland of Ballyroan I desire to draw particular attention to the approaching sale of the Foster estate; there are 8 small holdings on that estate. The owner of that estate is quite entitled to sell to the Estates Commissioners, and if purchased it should be purchased on the condition of recognising the rights of those eight occupiers of economic holdings to get holdings that would give them economic holdings. In Ashy No. 2 Rural District in the townlands of Stradellity and Timahoe there are 76 such holdings; there is land available recently taken up by the landlord; one holding of 130 acres; another of 80 acres, making a total of 210; that is on the Cobby estate, and if that 210 acres was acquired by the Estates Commissioners it would, in my opinion, go a long way to relieve congestion in that particular district; also in connection with the case of Cullough I may mention that there are 225 acres of a grazing ranch at Ballyroan from which also families were evicted; that should also be acquired by the Estates Commissioners; it is used as a grazing ranch and is living memory has been used as the same. I think that deals with the first question in the reference. The next question is, "What changes in law or administration are needed for dealing with the problem of congestion as a whole, for facilitating the migration of the surplus population from congested areas to other lands, and generally for bettering the condition of the people inhabiting congested areas." I suggest that compulsory powers should be given to acquire, on fair and just terms, grazing ranches or other untenanted lands for distribution amongst evicted tenants, providing economic holdings and suitable allotments for labourers. Then as to the question of bettering the condition of the people inhabiting congested areas, I say that in the betterment of the people, providing necessary employment and checking emigration, I think compulsory powers as suggested would go a long way. I would suggest in addition that compulsory powers should be given to the County Councils of Ireland to acquire all waste and mountain land for the purpose of re-afforestation.

38315. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say "all waste and mountain land"?—I would not that interfere with the feeding of small tenants who have rights of feeding on the hill-tops?—Well, I should not interfere with them. In saying all mountains I mean mountains that are at present both uncultivated and unproductive, where no such grazing rights exist, and it will be found that there is a very large area. Accord-

* See p. 168, Table B.

May 31, 1907.
Mr. P. A.
Meehan.

ding to one of the returns we find there are 83,662 acres of waste bog and mountain in Queen's County. I am not at the moment prepared to say that there may not be included in that some portion of mountain where tenants may have grazing rights; I would preserve those grazing rights; and as to the other waste lands I would be in favour of the County Council having the necessary authority and being provided by Parliament with funds for the purchase of those lands for re-afforestation. It would give a certain number continuous employment; it would improve the public health of the country; it would add to the national wealth of the country, and I would give to the Government a royalty on the timber when it could be axed off, that is when the timber would be grown and fit for sale, in order to recoup the Government in some way for the original outlay. But the re-afforestation in the first place, if carried out at all, must be carried out as a national work and with money which should be a free gift from Parliament.

30310. A free gift as distinguished from a loan?—Yes; I say three-fourths of the money should be a free gift. One-fourth might be left on as a charge to met the royalty on the timber I have mentioned. Also for the bettering of the condition of the people I would press that one of the most important things is a scheme of arterial drainage. In that case in consequence of the neglect of the arterial drainage, I may say for a century, it is not now possible that local effort can cope with it. It has been proved by several Commissions, especially the late Commission under the Chairmanship of Sir Alexander Binnie, that the question of arterial drainage, especially the River Barrow, must be regarded as a national question, that it is not possible for local effort to cope with it and that it must be dealt with by moneys given by Parliament, and the greater portion of that a free gift. If these two matters are dealt with they will give employment to the people and benefit the whole public health of the country. The arterial drainage would relieve the lands from the flooding that at present takes place annually, destroying the property and injuring the health of the people, especially in the valley of the Barrow, which is a hot-bed of disease.

30311. With regard to arterial drainage, do you contemplate that the holders should do their own field drainage if the State provided them with a system of arterial drainage—that each particular holder would drain into the arterial drainage?—In my opinion the

first work to be done is the removal of the obstructions from the main river. There are portions of low-lying land that it would be impossible for the occupiers to drain properly. There are men who have suffered for the last twenty years from losses caused by the floods. It is not possible with their available means to properly drain their farms. I say that the whole scheme of drainage should be first carried out, and that then a charge should be put on the lands in proportion to the amount of advantage derived from the system of drainage.

30312. That is to say, that they should be rebled for it?—To rate the lands adjacent to the river in proportion to the advantages derived. The people, say, ten miles away, should be taxed lighter, because their advantages would be less.

30313. And that rate would be applicable to the drainage to be carried out?—Yes.

30314. Mr. Meehan.—Is it a fact that the arterial drainage is worse now than it has been in former times?—If I may give the case of the Barrow I would say the state of that river is much worse now than it was twenty years ago. I have been told by people in the neighbourhood of the Barrow that what twenty years ago was good grazing land, some of it fastening land, is not now worth half-a-crown an acre.

30315. It has been flooded annually?—It is flooded annually. The floods carry sand and down from the Clonsilla hills; that sand is carried out on the meadows and lodged there, and no boat will cut the grass. I could hand you in returns of farmers whose lands are continually flooded all the year round. In an exceptionally dry year they get relief.

30316. Mr. Kavanagh.—Of course, the question of drainage in the Queen's County is a very large one, is it not, Mr. Meehan—you gave evidence before the Commission on Arterial Drainage?—I did.

30317. Their recommendation is that it should be a national work?—The recommendations of the Commission were that it was not possible for local effort to deal with the drainage of the River Barrow, that it must be a work done by Parliament, and for which money in the first instance must be advanced by Parliament. In Mr. Balfour's Bill the estimated cost of the work was £250,000. Mr. Balfour offered a free gift of £215,000; the balance of the £250,000 was to be charged on the land which would be benefited by the drainage. These were the main features of Mr. Balfour's Bill. Unfortunately it did not pass. I wish it had.

Rev. J. J. KELLY, examined.

Rev. J. J.
Kelly.

30318. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You reside at Ballyfin?—Yes, I am Parish Priest of Ballyfin.

30319. Perhaps you would read your statement, and we will ask such questions as are suggested by it?—Well, the matter with which I wish to deal is the Coote estate in the parish of Ballyfin. I find that the area of the Coote estate in the parish of Ballyfin is 9,748 acres, and the valuation is £2,750 4s. A large portion of that area is of a very poor kind. There are as many as thirteen districts where the valuation is under £5. For instance, in Ballymacmac, five out of eight holdings are under £5 valuation.

30320. May I ask you what union this is in?—Meenmallick, and what I am quoting now is from the records kept in Meenmallick Union. In Ballyfin Upper there are thirty-three holdings, and out of these there are twenty-two under £5. In Ballymac, out of fourteen holdings there are eight under £5. In Bockan, out of forty-seven there are twenty-nine under £5 valuation. In Ballyfin Lower out of nine holdings there are six under £5 valuation. In Cavan's Heath, out of seventeen holdings there are eleven under £5 valuation. In Deerpark, out of thirty-four there are eighteen under £5 valuation. In Frey, out of thirty-three there are twenty-one under £5 valuation. In Knocka, out of twenty-four there are twenty under £5 valuation. In Rossmore, out of eighteen there are thirteen under £5 valuation. In the second Deerpark, out of twenty-one there are thirteen holdings under £5 valuation. In Scarce Upper, out of twenty-one there are eighteen under £5 valuation, and in Scarce Lower, out of twenty-one holdings there are

sixteen under £5 valuation. In all there are 7,992 acres, the valuation of which is £1,750. Thus it will be seen that over 50 per cent. of the holdings are under £5 valuation, and therefore they are properly said to be congested. The people there are in great hardship, and in a very poor way indeed. The storm that occurred a few years ago was considered to be very destructive, but in my opinion it was a blessing in disguise, for at that time, on account of the heavy rains it was impossible to get turf; turf could not be dried, and thus the people would have perished of cold, and perhaps of starvation, but that Providence favoured them by blowing down all the demesnes.

30321. Blowing what?—The timber was all blown down, thus providing fuel for the people, and giving work all round; it gave an immense amount of work and wages to a large extent were obtained. This property was formerly owned by Mr. Wollery Pole, who was known as Lord Maryborough. Under Wollery Pole the tenants had a much better time of it than they had under the Coote family, for then they had free turbary and grazing on the mountain. It appears that in the transfer of the property Lord Maryborough, or Mr. Wollery Pole, arranged that the tenants should not be worse off under the new owner, but in point of fact, except to a small extent, there is no free turbary; there is a small amount of mountain grazing, but it is not much; under Mr. Wollery Pole the people were not called upon so exactly for rent, and in some holdings the widows were free from rent. I find that my predecessor then had his holding free of rent, but since the property came to the present family I have to pay rent

and so had my two predecessors, thus showing there is a great difference between the two owners. Now the rents are exacted with, I may say, great severity, and that has been so, not only at the present time, but under the late agency, and perhaps more so than.

38329. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Where is exactly the place you are giving evidence about?—The north-western portion of Ballyfin, on the southern slope of the Shree Bloom Mountains.

38330. Do you say there is a lack of turbarry there?—I say there is a very great amount of turf bog, and that some of the tenants do not have free turbarry, but where a turf bank is cut out they have to provide themselves with turf elsewhere by paying for it. They are quite numerous. For instance, in Breckin bog there are 125 acres; in Iry there is a bog of 338 acres; in Knockmaluran there is a bog of twenty-six acres, but all the tenants are not provided with turbarry, notwithstanding all this. Many of them have to go to other properties to obtain the turf.*

38331. There is no provision made for them after the turbarry they had before was exhausted?—I am not aware of any.

38332. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You state here the landlord has on his hands 365 acres at Derpark, 34 acres at Cappinrush, and 360 acres at Redcastle?—Yes, sir.

38333. Is that mainly under tillage or is it a grazing farm?—A grazing farm altogether.

38334. Allegation?—Well, except for Redcastle, there may be a portion of that. I am not well acquainted with it, but the greater portion of it is grass. I am sure there are over 700 acres in these three places. Cappinrush is altogether grass, but Derpark is partly tillage, but principally grass, and also Redcastle.

38335. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Would you describe any of these as demesne lands?—One of them is demesne land—Derpark.

38336. The other two are outside tenant?—Exactly. With regard to Cappinrush, that cannot be described as an outside farm. It is let on the eleven months' system to a tradesman, and some of the neighbours could be accommodated with that. They have very small holdings there, and the person who has that is an employee at Ballyfin House—he is a carpenter, in fact.

38337. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The practice of raising money on accommodation bills is very much in vogue?—Yes, the people over there in point of fact are living on borrowed money; there are two banks in Maryborough, one in Mountrath, and two in Mountmelick, and all these people live on borrowed money.

38338. They have not sufficient capital to work the land—there is no such thing as an agricultural bank amongst them?—I tried to establish one, but did not succeed very well. There are two money banks around; perhaps if there were fewer it would be much better.

38339. I think you have already referred to the present landlord dealing with his tenantry as compared with the previous landlord—have you anything to add to that?—Well, when the property first passed to the Cooke family there was a reduction given first of 4s, then it came down to 2s 6d and 2s, and then no reduction was given, and for the past few years nothing has been given.

38340. When you say a reduction, do you mean to say that 2s. in the pound was always taken off the agreed rent?—Oh, not always; it was sometimes 4s. It was a voluntary reduction.

38341. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Was it only for one year?—I say it was voluntary and it was not permanent.

38342. It would count one year and not recur the year after?—Yes.

38343. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have the tenants gone into court?—Some of them, and they got a very large reduction.

38344. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Why did not they all go into court?—Some of them are working at Ballyfin House with horses or something else, and I suppose for fear they would incur the wrath of the landlord they did not go into court. Others are in arrears, and are thereby prevented.

38345. Has there been any negotiation for the purchase of their holdings?—About a year before the

famous Land Conference I received a letter one morning from Sir Algernon Cooke, saying he wished to see me particularly. I went up to see him and he then informed me that he had just obtained the consent of his son and heir to sell his estate, and I asked him did he mean to sell all his estate or only portions; he said all, and he then asked would the tenants be willing to buy. I told him most assuredly they would be very willing to buy. Then he found me to mention the matter to make sure that they would be willing to buy; I said I would. After some time he mentioned the matter again; my colleagues, the late Father Hovey, was with me, and the two of them discussed the money question on that occasion. He said he thought he could not conveniently sell unless he got twenty years' purchase. I sang dumb, because I did not think then, nor do I believe now, that the land could be at all worth that purchase, because I was aware at that particular time that the best land in Ireland was selling at twenty years' purchase.

38346. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That is since 1863?—This was somewhere about the year 1860. I did not think then, nor do I now, that the land was worth that purchase, but if he got fourteen, or fifteen, or sixteen years' purchase it would be very large, and perhaps more than it was worth. I said nothing.

38347. Nothing was done then?—Oh, the Land Conference was held, and after that we had the Land Bill. After the Land Act I wrote to Sir Algernon asking if he was willing to sell his estate. I received in reply the following letter: "Dear Father Kelly, Thank you for your letter and enclosure. I forwarded the letter to Mr. Franks, who has my full instructions. If the tenants wish to buy on fair and reasonable terms to their landlord as well as to themselves. I am quite willing to sell. I enclose you a paper in return for yours. Mr. Franks will also reply to the first part of your letter." Then he said he was going off to Canada.

38348. What is the date of that?—End of September, 1863.

38349. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—How does the matter stand now?—I wish to tell you. He mentioned that Mr. Franks would communicate with me, that he had full instructions, and would reply to my letter. Mr. Franks replied as follows in a letter dated 2nd October, 1863:—

"Dear Sir, In reply to your letter relative to Sir Algernon Cooke selling his Ballyfin estate, and as you have asked me upon what terms he will do so, I beg to inform you that he will sell to the tenants whose rents have been fixed after the Act of 1856 at such a price as will give them 15 per cent. reduction on the present rents. This will include all non-judicial tenancies. He will also sell to those tenants whose rents were fixed prior to the Act of 1856 at a reduction of 20 per cent. When the tenants have discussed this amongst themselves I shall be glad to receive a deputation of the tenants at Mountmelick office, or Ballyfin, by getting two or three days' notice.—Believe me, Yours faithfully, M^r. H. Franks." I thought it a most extraordinary thing that Sir Algernon Cooke, who told me he was willing to sell his estate, and had obtained the permission of his son and heir, and that he could not sell for less than twenty years' purchase, which was a negative form of saying he would sell for twenty years' purchase, should afterwards come round and ask for twenty-four and a half and twenty-six and a quarter years' purchase.

38350. But one was prior, and the other subsequent to 1853?—That is so.

38351. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Does that conclude what you want to say?—I don't think of anything to add to that except it would be a very advisable thing if these two out farms and one of the demesne lands attached to the residence could be divided between the poor people to increase their holdings. I am in absolute agreement with Mr. Meenan as to the advisability of re-foresting these lands.

38352. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is there land in the neighbourhood of those people that is adaptable to re-foresting?—I should say so.

38353. On the slope of the mountain?—Yes.

38354. And is it used now by them for pasture?—There may be a little; it is not much, because it is only bog.

38355. Would that be suitable for re-foresting?—I should say it would.

38356. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have the tenants grazing rights on it?—Yes.

38357. And turbarry, too?—Well, lower down, as

May 31, 1907.

Rev. J. J. Kelly.

*Note by Witness.—Most of the Rosemore and Ballyfin tenants pay for turf on Redcastle Bog—another property, and others pay Mr. Figgis. Others, again, Lord Clonglen. That is, a large number of the Cooke tenantry pay for turf on three outside properties.—J. J. K.

May 25, 1902.

Rev. J. J.
Kelly.

Ire, and also on the other side, there is turbary, but not on the mountain.

30357. Would they be willing to give up grazing rights for re-forestation?—I cannot say that; that along with getting money from America, is their only means of support.

30358. Then, you think they would not be willing to give up their grazing rights?—Well, if they got compensation in some form or another, I should say they would. Of course, if these tenants in Knock

and other places got land elsewhere they would be very glad to surrender the bad land for the good.

30359. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It would be good grazing land again in ten or twenty years?—Upon the mountain side?

30360. Yes, where the trees are planted?—I don't think it would be possible to make good land out of that.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You would have good land where the trees were planted.

Mr. JAMES O'NEILL, SEATED.

Mr. James
O'Neill.

30361. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside, sir?—At Drumlish, County Longford.

30362. You represent the District Council of Longford?—Yes.

30363. Are you a farmer?—I am a farmer, sir.

30364. What is the average of your farm?—My farm is thirty-two acres.

30365. And the rent?—£8.

30366. And the valuation?—£10.

30367. In what union?—In Longford Union. It is portion of the Longford Union. The Longford Union consists of eighteen electoral divisions, and we pray that seven of these, in the northern portion of the union, be scheduled under the Congested Districts Board. I will hand to a map showing the electoral divisions that are marked off in the union. They comprise an area in a straight line of about ten miles from east to west along the borders of the County Leitrim, and it would be, in the other way, about five miles. That embraces a district mostly of mountain and bog land. In the Aghaboy division the number of holdings is 368; of that number 294 are of £5 valuation and under; 93 are over £5 and not exceeding £10; 24 are over £10 and not exceeding £15; and fourteen are over £15. Ballinamuck East Electoral division has 210 holdings; of that 101 are valued at £5 valuation and under; over £5 and not exceeding £10, 77; over £10 and not exceeding £15, 23; and over £15, 15. In Ballinamuck West Electoral Division there are 412 ratings; at £5 and under, 277; over £5 and not exceeding £10, 102; over £10 and not exceeding £15, 25; and over £15, 8. The Breacrick Electoral Division has 664 ratings; those at £5 and under number 384; over £5 and not exceeding £10, 132; over £10 and not exceeding £15, 22; and over £15, 6. Drumgort Electoral Division has 294 ratings; at £5 valuation and under there are 129; over £5 and not exceeding £10, 79; over £10 and not exceeding £15, 25; and over £15 valuation, 9. Killoe Electoral Division has 198 ratings; of those three are, at £5 valuation and under, 121; over £5 and under £10, 57; over £10 and under £15, 14; over £15, 6. The area of the Drumgort Electoral Division is 4,227 acres; of that 462 acres are bog in the landlord's possession. In Breacrick Electoral Division the area is 4,284 acres and of that amount 600 acres are bog. Drumlish Electoral Division is 4,965 acres, with three acres bog included. Ballinamuck East has 5,065 acres, and of that amount 462 acres are bog. In Ballinamuck West there are 5,792 acres, and of that amount 734 acres are bog. In Killoe there are 3,700 acres, of which 560 acres are bog. Aghaboy comprises 3,695 acres, of which 39 acres are bog. The total area of the seven electoral divisions is 33,058 acres; of that 2,790 acres are bog. The total valuation of the bog in the landlord's hands is £27 8s. The total valuation of the electoral divisions is £12,038 12s.; so that you see by these figures that the majority of the holdings in these seven electoral divisions are of £5 valuation and under. It is some of the worst land in the whole County Longford, and, I believe, in Ireland, for all that, for I have had a little experience as a valuer of land myself, as a local valuer of land for the last twenty years, and have had an opportunity of judging the quality of the land both in Longford and Leitrim, as I live close to the borders of the County Leitrim. It is badly situated as to roads and passes. It needs reclamation and improvement. The soil is light and mountainous; it needs to be thoroughly limed; there is not a limestone quarry

within nine miles of the place, and the lime has to be driven across the mountain belt from the Glenties Rural District.

30368. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is there turbary on all these bogs you are talking about, or are they outcrops of bog?—There is a portion of them outcrops of bog, but they are all in the landlord's possession.

30369. Yes, I know; but is there turbary on them?—Oh, there is plenty of turbary on the estate, except in one electoral division—the Drumlish Electoral Division.

30370. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You want to deal with the necessity of drainage improvements?—Yes, sir; the land, in the first instance, needs to be drained and afterwards limed; and I would suggest, if the Commission would recommend it, that it be scheduled as a congested area, that the tenants would get facilities for doing this work, for they are very poor, and the young men in the districts—well, all the good men—have to emigrate to Scotland and England. Some that have friends in America are taken out there, and about 5 per cent. return; and some that they way set to Nevada or Oregon, and others are failures in the States.

30371. You say there is not sufficient employment for the young men of the district?—No, sir; there is, in fact, no employment.

30372. And, therefore, there is no want of labour for any improvements, if they were carried out?—Yes, the farmers would do the labour with their own families.

30373. I see, for instance, in Killaheas there are thirty-seven holdings whose valuation is about £200 a year?—That is not comprised in any of the electoral divisions we are treating. Killaheas is one of the richest districts in the County Longford.

30374. Killaheas is in the Longford district?—Yes; but we do not seek to have it scheduled as a congested area.

30375. In Ballinamuck I see there are thirteen holdings, valued up to £400?—It must be a mistake, sir; because I represent it on the Longford Rural District Council, and before the standard of valuation for qualification of Poor Law Guardians was reduced from £20, there were only two men in the whole electoral division, except a bailiff—two farmers and a bailiff—who were qualified to be guardians.

30376. You told us about the division of Breacrick—I see there are thirteen there of a valuation of £100 and not exceeding £200?—That must be a mistake.

30377. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Would you kindly mention again the districts you think ought to be scheduled?—Yes: Aghaboy, Ballinamuck (East and West), Breacrick, Drumlish, Drumgort, and Killoe.

30378. Are these adjoining each other?—Yes, and adjoining the moorland of Leitrim.

30379. It is practically the north-west part of the county?—Yes.

30380. And you maintain that it is practically the same quality of land as in Leitrim?—It is worse.

30381. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That cannot be so; because they told us in Leitrim it was the worst in Ireland?—Well, it is much worse.

30382. Now, you want to tell us about the insanitary dwellings?—Yes. In former generations men held larger holdings than now, but when their sons emigrated to Scotland and became disabled, and returned, a farmer, say with fifteen acres, divided it between his sons; he utilised the kitchen for one dwelling, and gave the remainder to the other; then they built hovels and out-houses, and when cows grew up, the houses being built in small villages, and the out-houses and manure heaps too convenient to the dwellings, insanitary conditions prevailed. Often when an out-house, the byre, for instance, had to be

thatched, the ladder for the thatch had to be put on another man's land.

30383. Then these men are unscrupulous holders by their own actions—they sub-divided their holdings into two or three holdings?—By the action of their predecessors.

30384. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is that done at all now, Mr. O'Neill?—Very little now. There is a very good provision in the Land Act to prevent sub-division of these holdings.

30385. What is that provision?—None of these holdings purchased under that Act can be sub-divided.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I am not sure of that.

30386. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—"Improving all by-roads," you want to speak about that?—Yes, sir; the roads are very bad. They are winding round the mountains—small by-roads. In the days of the old grand jury, I believe, there was only one grand juror in those seven electoral divisions, so the roads were entirely neglected, and a number of them that have to be utilised are not on the county books; consequently they cannot be repaired as existing roads, except they were put up as new works, and the County Council have a great aversion to making any new works, for the expenses on the rates are going up so rapidly, and particularly since the deficit on the Land Purchase transactions is falling on the rates.

30387. Plantations?—It is practically without any sort of woods. I would suggest that as there are a number of estates for which negotiations are going on, when the landlords' interests are purchased out and the bogs that I mention are to be divided amongst the tenant farmers, they will have more than the next generation will require for the purpose of turbarry. If the tenants were encouraged by the Congested Districts Board to drain and plant portions of those bogs,

they would be useful for shelter and ornament, and would bring some hint to the climate.

30388. Then, generally, the effect of your evidence is that the divisions you mention should be scheduled as congested, and be treated by the Congested Districts Board as the districts now under their charge?—Yes.

30389. Now, the last thing I see is, "the facilities for relieving congestion."—Yes, sir; there is an amount of facilities for the relief of congestion. There are about 420 acres at Newtownforbes in the hands of the landlord, Colonel Douglas, which he has let on the eleven months' system to some grazier or halfist. He is in the act of selling the mountain portion of his estate adjoining Drumlish, and I would suggest that the Estates Commissioners would not sanction the sale of the estate unless he would sell out those grazing ranches to the Estates Commissioners for the relief of congestion.

30390. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The Estates Commissioners do that, do not they? That is their general action; they will not allow a sale to proceed where the landlord sells the mountain part and keeps the grazing—at all events, you think they should interfere in this case?—Yes, sir. There are other facilities. Mr. Reed, of Farragh, is a resident in the Longford Union, and he has five or six grazing ranches amounting to 2,016 acres, in the Grand Union. With such facilities it would be very easy to find places for the surplus population.

30391. Then you agree with the evidence we have already had, that there should be a sale—I presume you mean compulsory sale—of all unwanted lands and grazing ranches for the purpose of allotment to small tenants and the provision of economic holdings, and you say there is ample land to make provision for the divisions you mention?—Yes, sir.

MR. HARRY FRANKS CHAIRMAN.

30392. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside, Mr. Frank?—At Mountcash.

30393. Do you appear as a volunteer—do you appear on your own behalf?—No; I propose simply to deal with the Coote estate.

30394. Are you agent of that estate?—My father is the agent of the estate, and I assist him. I just wish simply to reply to some of the evidence given by the Rev. Father Kelly with regard to the estate. In the first place, with regard to the question of turbarry, Father Kelly stated that the tenants, to a great extent, did not get free turbarry. When my father became agent the tenants—

30395. When did that take place?—In the year 1895. He became agent when the late Rev. Sir Algernon Coote succeeded his brother in the ownership of the estate. Nearly all the tenants then were cutting free turbarry on Sir Algernon's bogs. The bogs were in a very bad condition as regards drainage, and the tenants on several of the bogs near Mountcash came to me and asked us to get the bogs drained. We put it to them as a purely voluntary question if they liked to pay a shilling a perch for the turf, which I do not think could be considered excessive, and that we would get the bogs drained with that money. On all the bogs, except one, they all agreed, and said they were very glad the bogs should be drained in this way. From that day on they have been paying a shilling a perch; the bogs have been drained, and the drains have been kept going. The shilling a perch does not cover the annual expense.

30396. Did the landlord advance money to carry out the drainage at his own expense?—Yes, sir. We employed men to carry out the drainage at as much a perch. We improved the old drains, and, when they were not good enough, made new ones. I am the person that lets the bogs every year, and, as far as I can see, the tenants are satisfied. They are getting more turbarry, and in an easier manner than they were formerly. Consequently, I do not think it is a just thing to say that Sir Algernon Coote is a worse landlord than his predecessors, or that he has treated his tenants with severity at all.

30397. The question was, I think, for I noticed it, Father Kelly said that the rent was exacted with severity and I understood him to mean by that that when it became due it had to be paid?—Well, sir, in

connection with most other properties the rent that became due on the 1st May is called for six months' rent after on 1st November, and I do not think that any gentleman will controvert the fact that the rent is very often not paid then.

30397. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What rent is that—what are the dates?—The 1st May and the 1st November are the gale days, with the exception of the Ballylin estate where the gale days are 15th March and 28th September.

30398. What is that for—the rent that is collected in November?—The rent that becomes due the preceding May. Then, with regard to employment, Sir Algernon Coote employs fifty tenants, or tenants' wages, on Ballylin drainage alone; he employs sixty-four tenants, or tenants' wages, at Ballylin and the Deerpark. His wages bill for twelve months is £2,300.

30399. Mr. KAVANAGH.—That was given to us as a reason for their not going into court?—That I wish to come to. That is entirely without foundation. The tenants have never been prevented from going into court, and I have heard my father frequently tell them when they came into the office and I have told them myself, if they complained that their rents were too high: "The Land Act is there; why do you not take advantage of it and go into court?" They have frequently asked us to settle rents out of court, which we have always declined to do, because I think it puts the agent in a very ridiculous position. The tenant may say he has fixed it too high and the landlord may say that he fixed it too low. Consequently we have always told them to go into court. As to preventing them going into court, that is the last I have heard of it.

30400. It was not said they were prevented, but that they were afraid they would lose their employment if they did so?—There is absolutely no foundation for the suggestion that the employment of those who might take advantage of the law would be affected.

30401. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Father Kelly told us some of them did go into court?—Yes.

30402. Have any of those now working on the place?—I cannot tell you that, sir, but as to their going into court it does not affect their employment.

30403. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You express approval of their going into court?—Yes.

30404. So that the Act of '81 has been a relief to the tenant and the agent?—Certainly sir, and where I

May 21, 1907.

Mr Justice O'Neil.

May 11, 1907.

Mr. Henry
Parks.

bear tenants complain of rents being too high I think it is a very good thing for them to take advantage of the Land Act. I could give some rents fixed on this particular portion of the estate. There is one case in the townland of Brockra—the area is 91 acres 2 rods, statute; the old rent was £18 15s 6d.; the Poor Law valuation, £19 10s., and the rent was fixed by the Land Commission at £18 19s. 6d., which is actually higher than the original rent. I don't think it is proof that the rents on that portion of the Ballylin estate are very high. I do not think they are high on any of Sir Algernon Cooke's estate.

30408. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Perhaps that decision was one of the reasons why they did not go into court?—That may be, sir. On the Ballylin section of the estate the valuation of the land held by tenants is £2,011 4s.; the yearly rental on that portion is £2,559 19s. 7d.; therefore the Poor Law valuation is £251 4s. 5d. more than the rent, which represents 21 per cent. On the Maryborough West portion, the total Poor Law valuation is £3,097 19s.; the yearly rental is £2,076 18s. 3d. The valuation is more than the rent by £421, which represents 16 per cent.

30409. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The Poor Law valuation all over Ireland, generally, is above the rent—in the majority of cases?—Oh, yes, it is. In the Graigue section of the property the total valuation is £1,499; the yearly rental, £1,370 8s. 4d.; therefore the Poor Law valuation is higher than the rent by £239 11s. 8d., which represents 33 per cent. In the total area of the Cooke estate in Queen's County the rents are 24 3-5 per cent. less than the Poor Law valuation. There is another case here now where the rent was £7 10s.; the Poor Law valuation was £9 13s.; the area, 24 acres 3 rods 36 perches, statute; the rent was fixed by consent, at £8 7s. 11d., and there was an appeal on the question of improvements and it settled at £7 10s.

Mr. WILLIAM DOOLEY.—I have been asked to request that the names of those tenants should be mentioned.

WILLIAM.—That is Matthew McLoughlin.

Mr. DOOLEY.—Would you please mention the previous tenant?

WILLIAM.—John Leman.

30410. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You might mention another?—(HUTCHES).—There is another one here—Finian Moore, Carran's Heath. The rent was £2 15s.; Poor Law valuation, £3; area, 10 acres 16 perches, statute; and the rent was fixed at £2 7s. 6d.

30411. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—These are selected cases?—No. This is the tenants' ledger. I am going through the cover. As Father Kelly states, very few of those tenants went into court.

30412. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say the rents were very little reduced as a result of their going into court. Can you give us the greatest reduction?—Well, I can only give you cases on this portion of the estate. There is the case now of a tenant, John Rafter, in the townland of Ballylisk; the old rent was £40; the Poor Law valuation £27 15s., and the area, 129 acres 2 rods 2 perches. The rent of this holding was fixed by the Sub-Commission at £50 7s. 1d. The tenant served notice of appeal and the rent was fixed by consent at £38.

30412. I think that will do as an illustration of your case. Can you go on to the next point?—Well, then, as to Sir Algernon Cooke's farms, he had a farm at the Deepark, which is all a demesne; a large portion is laid out in artificial lakes. The farm at Redcastle is worked in conjunction with it; it is a grass farm and a large portion of the farm is tilled. In my opinion if you take away the main farms you will restrict his opportunities of giving the large employment that Sir Algernon Cooke does give.

30413. Can you tell me if the area of Deepark and Redcastle would amount to 700 acres?—I cannot conjecture that, but I will take it.

30414. About what proportion of it, can you say, is under tillage?—I cannot say that, but a great amount of the Deepark is under tillage.

30415. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is it half tilled?—Oh, no, sir. There is a large proportion under woods and lakes.

30416. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Taking out that amount, what proportion would you say is tilled?—I should say about a-third of the amount available for farming. Sir Algernon Cooke has a large number of stall-fed cattle there, which, of course, require cost crops.

30417. Is there any other statement you wish to give with regard to the evidence that has been given?—No, sir, only as to the statement which was made with regard to the negotiations about purchase. Father Kelly's figures with regard to my father's letter to him in the opening of the negotiations after the passing of the Act of 1903 were quite correct, but, subsequently the Ballylin tenants, in conjunction with some tenants on the Maryborough West estate came in and offered to buy on the following terms: that the existing rents should be reduced by 15 per cent., and that they would then purchase at 18 years' purchase. That represented, roughly, 11s. is the ground, and those terms were refused by Sir Algernon Cooke. There have been no further negotiations with that action since. In two other portions of the estate the tenants have signed agreements for purchase: on the Ballylisk portion of 23 years' purchase of first term and 26 years' purchase of second term rents; on the Derryquille portion at 24 years' purchase of first term and 25 years' of second term rents. These are the only portions in which agreements have been entered into. I did not intend to take up your time only I heard statements made which I did not think at all fair to Sir Algernon Cooke. I think he is an exceedingly good landlord, does his duty in every way and spends his money in the country. His father before him did the same, and in Mountcash, where I live, we see his father a great deal of gratitude. He provided the town with a water supply at his own expense, which cost him a thousand pounds, and was a great benefit to the town.

30418. Do I understand that the landlord you speak about is resident?—He is resident for the greater part of the year. He is nearly the whole of the year at home, and I know from my own knowledge that his whole desire is to give employment and do his best.

MR. JAMES J. AIRD EXAMINED.

Mr. JAMES J.
AIRD.

30419. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside, sir?—At Maryborough.

30420. Are you a farmer?—No. I am a member of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Committee, and I have been deputed by them to give evidence on their behalf. I propose to take out some points relative to the terms of reference that you gave the Committee. The cost of the schemes administered by the committee amounts to £900.

30421. That is a year?—Yes.

30422. Is that for one of the divisions of the county or the whole county?—That is for the whole county.

30423. Mr. KILGUS.—Does that include the Department's grant?—That includes the Department's grant; £460 comes from the county rates and £440 from the Department's funds, and about £30 from class fees, &c. This is for the technical portion. The expenditure of that would be—salary of itinerant instructor in manual work, £150; salary of itinerant instructors in domestic economy, and of instructress attached to the Stradbally Residential School of

Domestic Economy, £185; expenses of instruction and their classes, £125; boys' scholarships, £150; girls' scholarships, £235; Stradbally woodwork class, £25; general administration, £90.

30424. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is that for the administration of the whole?—Quite so, sir. Then the agricultural schemes—the total cost would be £1,761, out of which £609 is payable from the rates, and £1,152 from the Department. The details of expenditure are—Itinerant instructor in agriculture, £225, of which £270 is payable by the Department. (In the remaining schemes five-ninths is payable by the Department.) Poultry, £152; butter-making, £112; horticulture, £149; cottage and farm prices, £121; in the live stock scheme there are eighty nominative to marks at £2 each; eighteen premiums to bulls at £15 each; subsidies to shows, £150, and is the county show and two local shows. The administrative expenses (including proportion of secretary's salary) amount to £212. The annual total contribution from the rates would be £1,000, and

from the Department, £1,522. The Chairman of the County Council has gone over a good deal of the portions of the county as regards congested districts and all that, but there is one very vital matter in connection with land purchase—

39424. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—If you please, we will come to that directly, but I think we had better discuss this part of your evidence first. I should like to ask you about the attendance. Now, the manual labour classes—have you an inspector?—Yes, he goes round and takes classes in the various districts. There is a great interest taken in all the classes, and more particularly in classes where small prizes are offered there is keen competition.

39425. Does he give lectures at one place?—He takes up a course of instruction from four to six weeks.

39426. In one district?—Yes. Then there are applications for him, and the committee appoint him to take up the next district. There are five rural districts in the county. They are divided, and get a pro rata share according to their liability, of the services of the manual instructor and the instructions as they desire them.

39427. And in the manual labour is the attendance good?—It is fair; in some places it is really very good; in some other districts they do not appreciate it, perhaps, so much as they might.

39428. How long has it been going on?—About four years.

39429. Can you say that it has produced visible fruit—that it has taught boys how to do work at large?—I cannot say that it has shown very much fruit up to the present, because it is not very long in use, and because some of the lads who go to school very often break away for one reason or another, or do not go to school so long as they ought to. The poultry scheme is very well taken up. As a matter of fact it was dropped by the County Committee; some of the members considered that there was not, perhaps, sufficient interest taken in it, or that the results were not sufficient for the outlay; it was dropped temporarily, but there were so many applications for the revival of the scheme it was put on again.

39430. Mr. STEVENSON.—And what induced them to stop such a practical thing as poultry raising?—Well, there were two views upon it. Some thought that the instruction given was not sufficiently practical, and some people thought they knew more than the poultry instructor.

39431. That is exactly what I was coming to. Let us come to close quarters. Now, what is done at this manual instruction?—The manual instructor trains the boys to make models and use tools. He trains their eye, and trains them in drawing.

39432. Does it differ from the ordinary drawing in the ordinary school?—Oh, it is.

39433. And how is this superior to it?—Well, I think this is more in a practical way. He teaches them to draw squares and all that.

39434. Did not you and I learn to draw that in the ordinary school?—I suppose we did, but he teaches it in a practical way in connection with the work he is doing.

39435. If a boy was going to be a carpenter I could understand that, but has a boy decided at that age what he is going to be?—Well, he may not, but though a boy never becomes a carpenter, if he learns to use a tool it will be a good thing.

39436. I agree in that, but £2,500 is a great deal of money to be spent in the county—that is a sum of money to which you look for some practical return?—Yes; well, to my mind the most vital subjects are the closest in their results—the educational part of the scheme—the boys' scholarships and girls' scholarships that provide for the higher education.

39437. Do you send them away to get the instruction?—No, there are good secondary schools here, and there are boys whose parents could not get afford to send them here, or who could not buy bicycles for them, and the committee assist them.

39438. And they come and lodge at the centre?—They may do that, or come by train.

39439. And does he or she learn this thing all the time?—They learn higher education.

39440. There is nothing technical?—Well, yes, there is some technical, but most of the boys of the outside

districts leave schools that are inefficient to come to the secondary schools.

39441. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Of poultry instruction you told me—that produced any practical fruit, has it enabled small holders to make a little profit out of it?—Yes. I believe it has created a greater interest, and has shown them the different breeds of fowl they had not been keeping before, how to kill them and market them, and I believe it has made markets for them. That was one of the points made at the time the scheme was dropped. I know the scheme was dropped at the time because the money was insufficient to carry it on. When it was re-established the money was not taken from the fund allotted to agriculture, but from a balance which enabled them to carry it along.

39442. Well, now as to the bulls—are the premiums appreciated?—Yes, the premiums have been taken up all along.

39443. Do we find any dispute with regard to the breed of bulls, or do you select the bulls?—Well, the committee know the class of bulls to select, and they are selected at the Spring Show along with an official of the Department.

39444. Mr. KILGUS.—The complaint in other counties is that the smaller farmer does not benefit by these schemes. Have you ever heard that complaint in this county?—Well, yes, it is quite true. If you go into the small holdings, say of £5 valuation, you would naturally come to the conclusion that they would not be very interested in that part of it. Perhaps they would not have cattle or horses either. Then, at the same time, if these small holders have children they can avail of the technical scheme and the poultry scheme. The poultry scheme was mainly advocated at the County Committee as the poor man's scheme: it was a strong point, and weighed very much with the Committee.

39445. I know they can avail of this poultry scheme, but do you do the small farmers avail of the poultry lectures?—I cannot say whether they do or not.

39446. Have you many classes at your shows for farmers, say, under £25 valuation?—I should say so. We have classes at the county shows where the poorest man can exhibit.

39447. Quite so, that the poorest man can show in, but it is no easy thing for a man of £5 valuation to compete with a man of, say, £20 valuation. Have you classes for small farmers?—Well, I cannot answer right off. I am a member of the Show Committee, and I can say the committee are anxious that the small man should come in and compete.

39448. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Can you say that many of the small men have taken prizes?—Well, I do not think the small men have anything to compete with. They will not have sheep or cattle, but they may have small things like poultry.

39449. Mr. KILGUS.—It is rather hard then for the whole county to benefit by the agricultural scheme—we will say those congested areas. They are not able to compete in these shows with their richer neighbours?—That is quite true, sir, but it would be very hard to devise a scheme that will take in every individual in the county. If you make a class of, say, £10 valuation you will find that the man with £10 valuation is exceedingly poor, and may not have a beast fit to show—he may not have one for his own use. Of course, there are good many prizes given by the County Committee—up to £125—for farm prizes and cottagers who keep their cottages neat, and there has been a great improvement.

39450. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—As regards the poultry, a very poor man might compete at a show for poultry?—Yes.

39451. Mr. STEVENSON.—Would not you expect to see an increase of tillage and agriculture under a system of technical education where agriculture is a subject?—Well, yes, I would expect to see an increase all round.

39452. Can you say there is an increase in your county?—I would not say our scheme has caused an increase in tillage, because this is a tillage county, and all the tillage farms in the hands of the farmers are tilled by them.

39453. How do you account for this being more a tillage county than other parts of Ireland?—I do not know, except that the land is not fit for grazing.

May 21, 1901.

Mr. James J. Ald.

May 24, 1907. In other parts the farmers have good land, and they have tinned it into grass.

Mr. James J. Aird. 30453. That is quite the opposite of what I thought. The land we saw in other parts of Ireland was inferior to what we saw here. One would expect that as a result of this education one would see an increase of tillage instead of going back as it is now!—One thing is to be said as an excuse for that, and it is this—we found it exceedingly hard to get an agricultural instructor, and it is only two or three years since we got the instructor. We had been advertising for one, and the Department could not get one. There was a demand all round for this instructor before he was appointed.

30454. Are you satisfied that those schemes are sufficiently practical or that they could be improved in any way?—I would not say they are sufficiently practical, but I say this—there would be more interest taken in the schemes if there were local men with sufficient technical knowledge to act as instructors.

30455. This ploughing—that ought to figure largely in Ireland where agriculture is so largely practised—do you do anything to encourage ploughing?—Yes; we got up a ploughing match last year; it was got up by the Agricultural Society, and it was very successful.

30456. In some of the holdings, such as we heard of to-day—up in the mountains—have those ploughs, or do they turn up with the spade?—Well, I think some of these manage to plough them; some could not turn up with the plough, and they are done with the spade.

30457. Is it because they could not be cultivated otherwise or not?—They could not be cultivated otherwise, and most of those men if they want an implement want to know how many years you are going to give them to pay for it, they are so poor. It is very hard for them to provide up-to-date requirements when they are short of cash; if they get credit they find it so very hard to meet the rent and the household expenses, that they are often left without those requirements.

30458. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Does that conclude what you wish to say, Sir?—There is one of the queries—"What changes in law or administration are needed for dealing with the problem of congestion as a whole, for facilitating the migration of the surplus population from congested areas to other lands, and generally for bettering the condition of the people inhabiting congested areas?"—I agree with some of the evidence given that compulsory purchase of unimproved lands would be one solution. In raising the views of the Committee, I say that the price given by the tenants for land purchased under the recent Act are entirely too high, and people who are not interested in the particular sales ought to be protected in some way. The Government should appoint someone who would safeguard the general body of ratepayers from being misled in sales in making up the deficiencies, and the difference between what the people have to pay and the rents they are able to pay could be directed to some useful purpose.

30459. You think the County Council should be consulted perhaps before any price is fixed for the sale of an estate from landlord to tenant?—I say the County Council would be the natural authority.

30460. And on the ground that the ratepayer is the ultimate security to provide the money?—The ultimate security, and also to put those tenants on the lands, so that they would be in a position to live, because buying at the rate they are buying, it will be only a short time until the last state of the tenant will be worse than the first. I know of a man who purchased. He was paying an exorbitant rent. The estate was offered, to be sold, and this man bought his farm simply because it gave him immediate relief of something like £35 or £36.

30461. He was a rather large holder, was he not?—He was a fairly large holder. Well, the result—the man told me before he died—was that he found it just as hard to pay that as the former rent. His widow is anxious to dispose of the land, and I told

her there was no salable interest in it—that the rent was too high. I think that land purchase leads up to that sort of thing, and that land purchase leads up to the taxation of the general public—the trader, the merchant, and it is time that some security should be given to the public at large.

Mr. F. A. NECHAN, M.P.—I wish to mention one matter, Sir, in connection with my evidence. I had expected, and it was arranged that gentlemen would give evidence on behalf of the Abbeyfeix district. I ask you to include the returns of Abbeyfeix district in those I have given in*. In the union of Abbeyfeix there are thirty uneconomic holdings such as I have described in my evidence. There are 600 acres of unimproved land heretofore set on the eleven months' system. It is at present on the landlord's hands. Efforts have been made to purchase that land. Up to the present they have failed, and it is now urged on behalf of sixty labourers of the district that a recommendation would be made to the Estates Commissioners that this unimproved land should be acquired for distribution amongst uneconomic holdings in the district, and restoring the evicted tenants. A great number of those tenants were evicted twenty-five years ago. They come within the scope of this Act. If I may refer to the evidence given by my colleague, Mr. Aird, there is, perhaps, one point that it would be well to make clear. There seems to be some little doubt in your mind as to the advantages of wood-carving. I desire to say that the wood-carving class is attended by carpenter's apprentices. It was expected that it would be attended by farmers' sons, with a view to training them to use tools in order that the knowledge they would get in those classes would be availed of by them in their homes and in the ordinary work of their farms for the purpose of repairing where necessary agricultural implements, repairing many things which a man set having a knowledge of the use of tools could not do. I think that this was mainly the object of the Committee in keeping on this wood-carving class, and I think on the whole it has turned out satisfactory. I have heard of farmers' sons who attended this class, and with the knowledge acquired there and a natural taste for it, who have made farm carts and many implements necessary on their farms.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—We rather understood that class of work came under manual instruction. Wood-carving is a rather vague definition—it is a rather peculiar term for the making of a wheel of a cart.

Mr. NECHAN.—Yes, and it includes training them in the use of tools and making wood joints and other work absolutely essential to a young man desiring to carry on the trade of a carpenter. Then it was considered desirable to have wood-carving taught, with a view to its revival as a cottage industry, which it was in the Queen's County, and is still in Strathgilly, and so supplement the incomes of the families. With regard to the valuation in the shews, I may mention that according to the rules of the Agricultural Society, certain classes are not asked to pay any subscription at all. Every facility is given for them to enter and exhibit. Every encouragement is given to poor men. There is a special section set apart for keeping a cottage clean, and the last-managed small farm. This is very largely availed of, and there is a very active competition amongst the small farmers in the county. With regard to the competition for cattle, I may mention that a man on two acres of land in the neighbourhood of Abbeyfeix has carried away the principal prize in the show for his cow, showing that every inducement is offered to the people to come to the show, and that the money is spent, as far as possible, with advantage to the poorest man in the community. Sir FRANCIS, perhaps you will permit me to supply an omission. I did not apply to have the districts mentioned in the evidence scheduled under the Act. I do now apply.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Yes. We understood you did wish to have them scheduled.

* See p. 270, Table C.

Mr. JOHN GUTHRIE examined.

39462. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?
—At Errill.

39463. You represent the Roscrea District Council?
—Yes.

39464. Will you state what it is you wish to bring before us?—I am a Rural District Council for the district electoral division of Connors, in the Roscrea No. 3 Rural District in Queen's County, and have been elected by the Council of the said rural district to bring under the notice of the Commission the condition of things in and around the townlands of Monamandra and Errill. I am acquainted with this district all my life. I desire, therefore, to say that the townland of Monamandra contains 429 acres, 1 rood, 34 perches, statute measure. Its valuation is about £192; its population in 1896, was eighty-five, and in 1901, fifty-six. There are about eight uneconomic holdings in this townland, the occupiers of which are poor and in need of additional land to make their holdings economic. The valuation of these small holdings varies from 10s. to £10. In the townland of Errill, there are a great many small holders under £10 valuation, residing in and about the village of Errill, who are also in need of additional land. The area in the townland of Errill is 577 acres, 3 roods, 23 perches, statute measure, and the population, exclusive of the village in 1881, was sixty, in 1901, fifty.

39465. You are speaking of Errill?—Yes.

39466. And you say there are only fifty people?—Yes, in the townland, exclusive of the village.

39467. Because they put it down in the return which I have here at 429?—There may be some mistake. The population of the village of Errill in 1901 was 114.

39468. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—We have no distinction between the village—is there a rural part of Errill and a village?—Yes.

39469. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That explains it!—The small holders in this townland are also in need of additional land. There are also many small holders in the adjoining townlands of Garryduff, Clonmore,

Rosmore, and Boreham, who are in similar need. Under the circumstances I believe that steps should be taken to provide additional land for those poor people, that the additional land in the district should be acquired by the Estates Commissioners and parcelled out in suitable divisions amongst the said holders.

39470. What uneconomic lands are there?—The estates of Hamilton Stubbler and Lord Castlehaven.

39471. Are they grass lands?—Yes, grass lands.

39472. What is their extent?—About 400 acres—landlord, Mr. Hamilton Stubbler. There are negotiations at present between the Estates Commissioners and the owner. I am also of opinion that there is no room for the importation of any persons from other parts of the country to this district, as there is barely sufficient land in the neighbourhood to supply the wants of the local people. I believe that the existing holders would be opposed to the introduction of others until the wants of those at home are fully supplied.

39473. Do you think there is sufficient land in the neighbourhood by the utilisation of the grass lands referred to, to raise holders throughout the union to an economic standard?—I am quite sure there is.

39474. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do you know how many acres there are of those uneconomic lands?—About 400 acres belonging to Mr. Hamilton Stubbler; some already divided, belonging to Mr. Hopkins, and about 600 acres belonging to Lord Castlehaven.

39475. Are these all grass lands?—Nearly all grass land. Lord Castlehaven has some land let in cut-sown.

39476. How is it let?—To some tenants in the County Tipperary, and some tenants with economic holdings take it also.

39477. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—The substance of your evidence is that the land should be acquired by the Estates Commissioners or other authority of the State and parcelled out amongst uneconomic holdings so as to raise them to the standard of economic?—Yes.

Mr. PATRICK KIRWAN examined.

39478. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You represent the United Irish League—where?—In Borris-in-Osney.

39479. Will you tell us what you wish to say, please?—That there is a total of 2,227 Irish acres of uneconomic land in and around Borris-in-Osney let on the eleven months' system; that there are in and around the village about sixty holdings under £10 valuation, and the people on these holdings are in only very middling circumstances, and that if they had some of this uneconomic land they could make economic holdings, and get a living out of them. A good many have large families, and have no way of living for them. There is only a house for one, and the rest have to go work on the railways, generally, or in the police, or to the breweries in Dublin to get a living. There is a lot of sons of farmers in the district in the same position, and over £10 valuation, who are in a worse position than those having only £10 valuation. There are something like fifty or sixty labourers who have cottages.

39480. Where do they find employment?—They find employment two or three months of the year cutting turf and saving hay, and they have nothing but what they get out of the acre of land to keep them in the winter months.

39481. Do they go to England or Scotland for the harvest?—No.

39482. And they are employed at cutting turf?—Cutting turf, and they are employed by the farmers on the grazing ranches for two or three months saving hay. There are in the village of Borris-in-Osney a number of labourers who work out in the country, and

have no farms at all. There is, in this district, sufficient land to give them all a portion that they could get a living out of, while they have no living at present.

39483. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What kind of land is that 2,000 acres?—No better land in the world.

39484. And how is it employed now?—All at eleven months. It is in fourteen farms that are all so-called Rathmore (an English landlord), 280 acres; Thompson's, Kilmoe, 300 acres; White's estate, Kilmoe, 100 acres; Deane, 180 acres; Carraghmore, 150 acres; Lyttel's estate, Monks, 100 acres; Parker's estate, Lismore, 140 acres; Stubbler's estate, Walsh's farm, 120 acres; Stewart Mitchell's, 25 acres; Castlefering, 50 acres; Rosmore, 172 acres; Akip, 100 acres; Keldellin, 300 acres.

39485. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are these put up for auction every year for eleven months?—They are not, sir; they are dealt with privately by the landlord. Some of the men are grazing them for years. There are numbers of farmers' sons and labourers who have no way of living, and if the Estates Commissioners step in and acquire that land they would get a living out of it.

39486. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That is the substance of your evidence; that where there are, in any union in this country, a large number of uneconomic holdings, and where there are grazing lands, or ranches, as you call them, that the State, or some Department of State, should purchase the grass lands and raise uneconomic holdings to the economic standard?—That is about it, sir.

Mr. THOMAS BREEN examined.

39487. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside, sir?—At Ballinacolla, sir.

39488. Do you appear on your own account, or represent any district or Council?—I represent the United Irish League of Aghaboe.

39489. Will you state what you know for as?—We

have in the parish of Aghaboe 204 small uneconomic holdings, all under fifteen acres; and we have in the parish 1,361 acres of uneconomic land, all set on the eleven months' system. Besides this uneconomic land we have also 416 acres of semi-residential uneconomic land, all set on the eleven months' system also. In

May 31, 1907.

Mr. John
Guthrie.Mr. Patrick
Kirwan.Mr. Thomas
Breen.

May 31, 1907

Mr. Thomas
Evans.

the districts of Killybready, Boedwell, and Brockagh there are 38 families living on 75 acres; in Aghaboe and Kilduff, 17 families living on 72 acres; in Ballysally Wood and Springfield, 42 families living on 205 acres; in Boharrard, Gerrarduff, and Clogh, 30 families on 109 acres; in Carrickrock, Knockin, and Boston, 12 families on 65 acres; in Whitpark and Granstown, 11 families on 77 acres; and in Ballacoola, Codderry, and Ballygarran, 30 families on 84 acres. In the Killybready and Boedwell district there are 185 acres of untenanted land, which could be made available for distribution amongst these small holders, and so raise their holdings to an economic standard. In Aghaboe and Kilduff something about 500 acres could be used for the same purpose; in Ballysally Wood and Springfield, 200 acres; in Boharrard, Gerrarduff, and Clogh, 85 acres; in Carrickrock, Knockin, and Boston, about 200 acres; and in Ballacoola and Codderry district, 342 acres; so that in each of the districts you have a tract of untenanted land that could be used for the enlargement of the small holdings and raising them to an economic standard. In some of these families there are four or five boys, with nothing before them when they get up but emigration. They go away, one after the other, and, in the end, the whole family goes away, and the houses are allowed to fall.

30488. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I understood you are pressing the same point that the last witness did: that inasmuch as these districts contain many uneconomic holdings and at the same time contain other grazing ranches or untenanted lands, you think that the State or some Department should purchase those grazing farms, divide them, and allot them among the small holders in such a manner as to raise their holdings to an economic standard?—Quite so.

30489. Mr. KATAMAGH.—You think they are emigrating because there is nothing for them to do. Do you think if the holdings were enlarged that would stop emigration?—To a great extent it would, I believe.

30490. Do you think that the extra land they would get they would till?—Yes.

30491. And not be merely grazing it themselves instead of others grazing it?—I believe they would. The people would be only too happy to get the land and till it.

30492. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—If there is any other point you wish to touch now, we will hear you.—There is a lot of waste land that I think should be drained and made useful. There is a large tract of waste land there, about a mile eastward of Rathdowney and Errill.

30493. What do you call waste land exactly?—It is flooded practically all the year round.

30494. Has anybody got grazing rights to it?—No; because it is flooded all the year round. The people round the place, as far back as 1884, sought to form

a drainage board, and expended some £200 in maps and surveys. When all was ready a couple of landlords opposed the formation of the Drainage Board, and the whole thing fell through. With your permission, I will read two or three extracts from the report of the Inspector of the Board of Public Works:—"The proposed district is situated partly in the counties of Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Queen's County, in the baronies of Sherrinagh, Galmoy, and Clonalough, and extends from south-east of Ullingford along the River Clonal, by the west of Johnstown all it joins the Ekynea, about a mile eastward of Rathdowney to Darrow Bridge, near its junction with the Nore, and includes the low-lying lands along these rivers, which in winter are covered with water, and forms at the lower end an immense lake for the greater portion of the year. The main basin, measured at the outfall of the proposed district, is 90,700 statute acres. The length of the main channels which it is proposed to improve is twenty-seven miles, and about nine miles of small branch streams and drains. The cost of the proposed work is estimated at £32,596 8s. 3d., and the extent of land which it is expected will be improved is computed at 4,793 acres 2 roods 28 perches, the present value of which is set down at £1,075 15s. 3d., and the estimated increase in value at £2,856 2s. 3d., being an average increase in the annual value of 8s. 2d. per statute acre, and calculated to yield on the estimated cost of the works a return of a little over 6 per cent. The works by which it is proposed to effect the drainage of the district consist in the deepening, widening, and general improvement of the channels and rivers, and the removal of great bed of rock at the outfall in the demesne at Darrow; also the removal of a small mill near Ullingford, the lowering of the mill at Newtown, and the rebuilding, underpinning of the various bridges, which will be affected by the deepening of the channels." Then, again, he goes on to suggest alterations, and he says the alterations would cost £25,917—

30495. I do not think we need carry you through the figures. What you suggest is that that project for the drainage of the district, which was thrown to the ground for some reason at that time, should now be taken up again?—I think the place should be drained, and so give employment, which is much needed in the locality.

30496. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What is the nature of the land now, sir? you say it is waste land—is it land that once was under cultivation and is now destroyed by flooding?—Well, no; I do not believe it was ever cultivated. It is a boggy, marshy place all along the valley of the river; and the river, when the food comes, flows over the place, and all this is practically waste land.

30497. And it could be reclaimed if the water was carried away, and prevented from going over this land?—Quite so.

Mr. WILLIAM DELANEY examined.

Mr. William
Delaney

30498. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Mr. Delaney, I think you are Member of the Querry Division of the Queen's County?—Yes. I have sent in as abstracter of my evidence, but I wish to supplement the evidence that has been given before the Commission to-day, so far as I see there is any reason to supplement it, which is in a very small way. In the first place, I agree with the evidence given by Mr. Meahan as regards the condition of the county and the means of remedying the congestion. He went very minutely into the conditions of the county, because he went, not only into the unions, but into the electoral divisions; and if you take so small an area as the electoral divisions, there are sufficient untenanted lands, or grazing ranches, available to remedy the congestion. He spoke of Cappalough and Castleduff and Beary. I am well acquainted with these divisions, as fact with the whole county, and I agree with what he says about those divisions. There is sufficient land in those divisions to remedy any congestion there. I will not say, speaking of the county as a whole, that there is sufficient land in the immediate localities to remedy the congestion. There would have to be some form of migration adopted. You put some questions, sir, to Mr. Meahan, which were very pertinent, indeed, with regard to what he thought would be economic holdings

in this county. Speaking generally, I believe that a farm of less than twenty acres would not be in this county an economic holding. I leave out the waste lands and flooded lands, which are very extensive.

30499. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What would they be rented at?—Rented at from 12s. to 20s. an Irish acre.

30500. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Before you pass from that question of migration—you have raised a point we raised before as to the sufficiency of the land of the entire county for raising the uneconomic to economic holdings. As regards migration, which you said might become necessary, do you anticipate, assuming there was still congested left for whom you could not find economic holdings, that it is probable if lands in other counties were bought the holders of these other counties would—I won't say welcome—but would tolerate the migration of people from this county into another county?—I do not suggest that at all. I was speaking of the small areas of electoral divisions for the remedying of their own congestion, and I say there is sufficient land in the county to remedy all the congestion in the county, and not to impose the hardship on the people of going into another county, or the hardship that you speak of—of bringing strangers into another district.

38502. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Would there be any objection or feeling against migration from one side of the county to another?—I do not think so, because there are thousands of acres. I can support the evidence of both Mr. Kirwan and Mr. Breen, who are consistent of mine. They have given evidence of over 2,000 acres of untenanted land, it is there; why would not the people be as welcome at the bullocks and sheep?

38503. I am asking you the question?—I think they would be welcome.

38504. Inside the county?—Inside the county; and, besides, there are a number of evicted tenants who would be glad to get equivalent holdings in other districts.

With regard to the necessity for arterial drainage, I do not think there is a county that suffers more. The necessity for arterial drainage has been very well proven, as my colleague, Mr. Meehan, has said, by reports of Commissioners. The condition of things is so deplorable in this county in the case of the Barrow and Eskine, and the Guol that it is a special grievance, and I believe there is no such thing as remedying the agricultural condition of the county, bringing it into a normal condition, unless you remedy the arterial drainage. With regard to the scheme Mr. Meehan has mentioned of re-afforestation, of course it is an important scheme, but I think the urgency and necessity of arterial drainage comes

before that question. There is another matter; with regard to Sir Algernon Coote's property. I know Sir Algernon Coote's property very well. Strictly speaking, well, there have not been many evictions or hardships, but it is a very poor property, and Mr. Francis, in his evidence, very discreetly avoided quoting a certain portion of the property that got very large reductions in the rent. The tenants in the Kyle portion went into the court lately and got from 50 to 25 per cent. reduction of the rents. I think Mr. Francis shows very great discretion in not quoting the Kyle estate in this matter. I have driven round portion of my constituency above Boreale-Cowry and around Ballinella. It has been described as the best land in Ireland—this untenanted land on the Stubbler and Castleown property. I will not go so far as that. I will say it is the best land in the Queen's County, and if the Commissioners had only time to drive around there they would see untenanted land of the very best character set year after year by the eleven months sufficient to remedy all the congestion and uneconomic holdings in the Queen's County without any necessity for migrating one people into any other districts.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You have given your evidence so very clearly that there is no question to ask at all.

May 21, 1907.

Mr. William Delaney.

Mr. JAMES STANLEY examined.

38505. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside, sir?—At Garrison, Ennill.

38506. Are you here as representing yourself or any Council?—I represent the Roscrea No. 3 District Council.

38507. Are you a farmer?—Yes.

38508. What is the size of your holding?—I hold about 100 acres.

38509. And the rent?—£26.

38510. Do you know what the valuation is?—£120.

38511. It must be good land?—The rent is likely to be raised when I hear the return of the Commission. I have just heard the evidence given by Mr. Delaney, Mr. Kirwan, and Mr. Gaffigan. I agree with them in every particular, and agree there is sufficient land within the district to remedy all the congestion—but to come details. Around Ennill and on Mr. Stubbler's property and Lord Castleown's property there is a good bit of land, and it would be sufficient to remedy the congestion around Ennill.

38512. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Where is Lord Castleown's property?—Ennill and Luduff. On Mr. Stubbler's property there is not so much when whatever evicted tenants who have a claim to get back will be reinstated. I may mention that as a representative of the tenants on the committee have made a bargain with Mr. Stubbler, and agreed to a very high purchase because he agreed to reinstate the evicted tenants, and to sell the untenanted land to the Estates Commissioners to be divided amongst the uneconomic holders.

38513. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—And what state is that negotiation in—is that land in the hands of the Estates Commissioners?—Well, it is not signed, but the Estates Commissioners have been on the Estate. If there is anybody brought in beyond the people who are on the property it will break up the bargain, because there are thirty-six holders on the property and none of them exceed £10 valuation. I do not think there would be any living for any outsider.

38514. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—On that particular property?—Yes.

38515. Is it not an extensive one?—Well, it is not.

38516. What size of holdings do you think ought not to be broken up—what would be the valuation or rent, of acreage, that should not be reduced?—I cannot understand.

38517. You said you did not wish anybody outside to be taken in?—It is the tenants' wish. They made that bargain with Mr. Stubbler, that after the sale of the land they should be broken up amongst them.

38518. That is what I say. What size farm should those men have?—If a man had ten good acres he should make a living out of it, but some of them have thirty acres and what good is that when the valuation is only £12. I think the untenanted lands to the extent of 200 acres should be taken up and divided amongst them.

38519. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What my colleague wants to get to you is this: he pictures that your view is that holdings of a certain size should be liable to be divided in order to meet the requirements to raise uneconomic holdings to an economic standard. Have you in your mind any limit above which such an estate might be divided; that is to say, suppose a man had an estate of 1,000 acres with uneconomic holdings around him, I gather you hold that that farm might be broken up?—I do not mean that any farm should be broken up. I hold that untenanted land should be divided amongst them to make economic holdings. I know one man who cannot rear a calf on his holding at all. He cannot rear a sheep. He could keep it for a month, but if he kept it for a year he would lose him.

Mr. Wm. Delaney.—I just want to supplement my evidence to this extent, that the county as a whole, in view of its general condition, is a county that ought to be scheduled, and if your Commission had time to go around the county you would see the necessity for it.

Mr. James Stanley.

Rev. J. M'ATEEN examined.

38521. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside, sir?—Allen, County Kildare.

38522. Do you represent a Council?—No. I represent the people. I have been asked to come here in reference to some sowlands in my parish of Allen, in the County of Kildare.

38523. Kildare?—Yes; you are there is no sitting in my county of Kildare, so I came here, not knowing whether I would be heard. In the parish which I come from there is the electoral division of Kilmacogue North, and as the electoral division there are 115 holdings under £5 valuation; in the electoral division

of Feighallen there are 84; in Rathernan, 46; and in Robertstown, 96. In Kilmacogue North there is practically no untenanted land; there are large tracts of bog. In Feighallen there is a farm of untenanted land of 250 acres; in Rathernan electoral division there are two or three hundred acres of untenanted lands on the landlord's hands. In Robertstown there is no untenanted land. In reference to Kilmacogue North there is a difficulty as the present time in the negotiation for sale, and that difficulty is principally in reference to turbary, because of those 115 families there are between 60 and 70 who have not more than

Rev. J. M'ATEEN.

May 31, 1902.

Rev. J.
McAlister.

an acre of a holding, and they are depositing altogether on the sale of turf. Now the estate is being sold, and the owner, Miss Aylmer, wants to sell one bog, and the Estates Commissioners say they cannot advance money on the bog because it is not security. In case they do not advance it, and the tenants are left as they are, it is thought that she might sell to somebody else, who would put a prohibitive price on the turf lands, and leave the people in such a way that they would not be able to live at all.

36524. Your point is that some means should be taken to prevent sale of the turf then without the whole estate altogether?—Well, they ask for trustees to take up the bog to have advance made to them; the Commissioners will advance the money to buy the bog if they get trustees who will be responsible to them. We cannot get trustees unless the price is very small. In Robertstown there are 96 families who have no other industry except turbarry. If some other industry were started it would be a great benefit; otherwise a great number of young people must leave the country. In reference to Faghgallin, those 252 acres are, I understand, being handed over to the Estates Commissioners. I understand a man has got a large portion of it who is from the County Mayo,

and our people will not like that, inasmuch as there are in that electoral division 24 very small holdings.

36525. I am afraid, although I can quite appreciate the troubles of the district, it is hardly a matter we can help. You have got your statement and read it, and the reporter, if there is any more of it, can take it down, but we really have no means at all in Kildare. You can hardly call that a congested district, or a very poverty-stricken county?—Not of the county, as a whole, can it be said, but in reference to these townlands it can be said they are as much congested as any other place. Except for these townlands there is no congestion, and therefore the authorities do not take it up.

36526. Mr. Kavanagh.—That is a small bit that is very, very poor?—Yes; very poor.

36527. Have you any experience of any other part of Ireland?—Well, so, because my time has been spent in that place on the Mission.

36528. Would you describe them as being as poor as possible?—As poor as possible.

36529. Having no means of livelihood except turf?—That is so.

36530. Is it not being inspected by the Estates Commissioners?—It is.

Mr. LEWIS CULLINAN examined.

Mr. Lewis
Cullinan.

36531. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You reside in Donaghmore?—Yes.

36532. You represent the District Council of Mountmellick?—Yes. I entirely agree with our worthy members, Mr. Michael and Mr. Delaney; I think the conditions of portions of our district are such as would entitle them to be scheduled as congested. The principal question I wish to refer to is the drainage. The bed of the river, in the part where I live, is six feet over the land from sand that is silted down from the Silverstown Mountains.

36533. Do you mean the river overflows when it is in flood?—You see though it is called the River Barrow and the second river in Ireland, it is no river in this section. It is filled up, and when the flood comes it floods the whole country. There are six or seven miles where there is hardly any river at all—you could step across it. There is plenty of land which is now useless that could be made good by cleaning the river. The sale of land is not going on so well as we would like in that district. We offered the land to be purchased—all the tenants—and it was a very large price, but we were anxious to get a reduction some way or other, so the tenants are most

industrious and still unable to make anything out of their time. They offered a large price to the landlord.

36534. How many years' purchase?—25.

36535. Of second term rentals?—Well, 25 was the offer and there are some first and some second term tenants, and I believe the second term tenants would have to give more. The owner offered to give a reduction all round, but I believe there are seven or eight concerned in it, and it could not be sold unless some State body took it up. I understand that under the Congested Districts Act if two-thirds, or a certain amount of the valuation, signs for it, the Congested Districts Board can buy it.

36536. Then you suggest some legislation that would simplify title?—Yes; the landfords are good and kind, but they are very poor. The tenants that live under them have the same character. The tenants are anxious to buy and the landlords are anxious to sell, but owing to the complications they cannot do anything.

36537. The more one studies the law and considers the question the more difficult it seems to be to simplify title?—Yes; and compulsory sale would be necessary in very many cases.

Mr. ROBT J. CAMPBON examined.

Mr. Robt J.
Campbon.

36538. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You reside at Donaghmore?—Yes. I was deputed to give evidence by the Abbeyleix Rural District Council, and I also expected the Chairman of the District Council and the Chairman of the Board of Guardians. I brought no statistics with me, but speaking for the locality I represent, and as the County Councillor for the Donaghmore electoral division, my friends who have given evidence before you cover almost all I have to say. In Aghaboe, Kildallin, Rossmore, Killybeggy, Drinstown, Borehill, Donaghmore there is a tremendous lot of untenanted land—in the Donaghmore electoral division. There are a good many small farmers in the district also. The sons and daughters of farmers of 30 or 40-acre holdings have to go to America; they prefer to go rather than remain as servants in other little holdings. I was asked by the people of my locality to say that if those growing ranches were to be divided, those between 25 and 40 years of age would have a claim on part of the holdings.

36539. That is to say, that the holdings should be given, not only to the tenants, but to the tenants' sons who had not holdings previously?—Yes; or even the adjoining tenants.

36540. I must point out to you that that is a plan of increasing, not reducing, congestion?—In such tremendous tracts as we have you could not, I think, increase congestion. In one little tract, Kilkake, Kilpennock and Akip, there are but three beds on 500 acres of land. The small holders have to crop their land, but they do not get an opportunity of

cropping in rotation; they have to put the same crops in too often and do not get the same results as if they were able to keep them at six or seven years' distance. In that place also I would suggest that a road should be made through Akip, Kilpennock and Kilkake, a tract of 500 acres, and the lands should be divided into economic holdings. There would not be a possibility of dividing those lands except a public road ran through them. I think, also, there was a reference made to the rivers Goul and Eridon, and you, gentlemen, asked a representative from Delbolla if he had any knowledge of the lands and would they be worth the outlay. Well, I was a member of that committee for improving and draining the Goul and Eridon; of course the young man gave you an explanation, but he did not know the nature of the land. I specifically know it from the bottom of Tipperary, through Killybeggy and down to Durrow. As late as last Monday I was on the lands adjoining the River Goul; I was there as a valuer. I must say if the river is allowed to fill in as it is going on, those lands will be closed altogether; I am sure that for eight months of the year it is closed as it is now. The upper part of that land would be worth £1 an acre if it was reclaimed. Lord Castletown objects to have this drainage carried out; he is the principal objector. Most of the other landowners are quite pleased, so that the occupiers would be responsible for the outlay.

36541. Why does Lord Castletown object?—He pretends to keep it there for a duck-pond, and he has stated, I believe, on a few occasions, that he only

wished there was more of it flooded. We have no power over him, I believe. We went into very minute details, and we had as our secretary Mr. Houghton, who, I expected, would be here to-day. I cannot say anything in addition to the statements that have been made.

18642. I really do not think the absence of stagnation is any drawback to your evidence, because the case is just as good if there is a large tract of land submerged, and if those who know the land are satisfied that the drainage would increase the value of the flooded land, the case for drainage is made out without statistics?—But we have no power over Lord Castle-town, and I understand he is buying some estates to enlarge the duck-pond, and he has recently purchased the Pilkington estate at Boston over the heads of the tenants. The districts will be very much damaged if he is allowed to go on. Even further down, where Lord Castle-town is sole owner, no one can touch it and you can walk across it with reeds of every description accumulating in it. I have valued some of the lands adjoining those rivers and felt bound to put the nominal rent of 1s. per acre as its annual value, and in this estimate I was practically joined by the landlord's valuers. Some of the lands I have recently inspected in the neighbourhood of Gallohill will be worth no rent if these rivers are not improved, whereas, if the necessary drainage was carried out it should be worth an average of 10s. an acre.

Mr. Delaney.—There are other witnesses who were unable to attend here to-day, Mr. Houghton among the number. Would it be possible to give an opportunity of hearing it at some other sitting?

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Our Secretary will look over

our schedules and list of witnesses and will write to you explaining to you if it is possible to hear those witnesses.

Mr. Meehan.—As Chairman of the Queen's County County Council it is right that I should, in the name of the people, express to the Commissioners our appreciation of your visit. We acknowledge the readiness with which the Commission acceded to the request of my colleague, Mr. Delaney, to come to Queen's County, and to investigate the several matters in the scope of the terms of reference. We feel disappointed and sorry that his Lordship, the Bishop of Ely, was unable to come to the county. The people would be glad to see him and pay him any compliment in their power. The people appreciate the readiness with which the Commission has come here, and heard evidence, and their ardent desire to find a remedy for the evils which are admitted to exist. I would impress upon you that it would be impossible to find a remedy unless the grazing lands and untenanted lands are taken up by some legally constituted authority for distribution. In that work we wish your labour a God-speed, and hope and pray that the result of the deliberations of the Commission will be to formulate a plan which would give to the people of Ireland access to the land so long shut out from them, and open to the people some prospect of prosperity to which they have been so long strangers.

Mr. Delaney.—I endorse Mr. Meehan's remarks, and regret the absence of Lord Dudley, Mr. Conor O'Kelly, and your other colleagues.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Speaking for my colleagues and myself I may say that we are extremely obliged to Mr. Meehan and Mr. Delaney. I think that I may sincerely say that neither of those gentlemen, nor any of the witnesses whom we have heard, is more anxious than we that the result of our labours should be of assistance to the people of Ireland.

The Commission adjourned.

SEVENTY-NINTH PUBLIC SITTING.

MONDAY, JUNE 3rd, 1907,

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.,

In the Courthouse, Ennistymon, County Clare.

Present:—WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L. (in the Chair); Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; COSMO O'KELLY, Esq., M.P.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER ULLMAN, Esq., Secretary.

June 2, 1907.

Mr. Michael Cosgrave.

Mr. MICHAEL COSGRAVE examined.

36642. Mr. KAVANAGH (in the chair).—Do you represent the Ennistymon Rural District Council?—Yes.

36643. Have you made a precis of your evidence?—I intend to give evidence about particular parts of the district concerning what is not scheduled as congested, and which require to be dealt with as congested districts, what lands will be available for the relief of these districts, and what changes are required in law to deal with that question.

36644. Will that be actively in the rural district of Ennistymon?—Yes, and I wish to speak on what would generally improve the condition of the people inhabiting the congested areas; also as to the electoral divisions of the rural district, the number of holdings under £4 valuation, and the number over £4 and not exceeding £10, which are considered uneconomic in several districts of the nation. In Arragh we have 27 holdings under £4, and 132 holdings over £4 and not exceeding £10. In Ballyvaughan there are 43 under £4, and 38 over £4 and under £10.

36645. Mr. O'KELLY.—Where did you get these figures?—From the clerk of the union.

36646. Mr. KAVANAGH.—There is apparently a difference between the figures you have got and the figures we have!—Perhaps I would be able to account for it in this way, that more than one person might have two of these holdings.

36647. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—There is a difference if you calculated by the number of holdings or by the number of holders?—I am speaking of holdings.

36648. Mr. O'KELLY.—The lists are called holdings. Our figures really relate to holdings, and one man may have two holdings!—Quite so. I am almost positive my figures are right. In Clonsilla there are 59 holdings under £4, and 31 over £4 and under £10. Ferns, 82 under £4 and 40 over £4 and under £10. Millown, 123 under £4 and 119 over £4 and under £10. Moy, 123 under £4, and 125 over £4 and under £10. Ballyvaughan, 173 under £4 and 108 over £4 and under £10. Clonsilla, 60 under £4, and 30 over £4 and under £10. Killybeggin, 59 under £4, and 53 over £4 and under £10. Killilagh, 30 under £4, and 15 over £4 and under £10. Kilsenny, 30 under £4 and 13 over £4 and under £10. Lisacorney, 57 under £4, and 47 over £4 and under £10. Larringe, 15 under £4, and 27 over £4 and under £10. Smiltown, 39 under £4, and 29 over £4 and under £10. Ballyvaughan, 57 under £4, and 50 over £4 and under £10. Ballagh, 47 under £4, and 71 over £4 and under £10. Clonsilla, 31 under £4, and 60 over £4 and under £10. Ennistymon, 133 under £4, and 111 over £4 and under £10. Killybeggin, 55 under £4, and 52 over £4 and under £10. Mangroveagh, 30 under £4, and 60 over £4 and under £10.

36649. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Can you state the total number of holdings between £4 and £10?—There are some particular divisions in the union to which I want to draw your attention, and that is where lands are available for relieving these congested areas.

36650. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have you added up the numbers under £4?—Yes. There are 1,228 under £4 valuation, and 1,316 over £4, and under £10.

36651. Mr. O'KELLY.—Sixty per cent. of the holdings are under £10. If you regard the holdings under £10 as uneconomic, 60 per cent. are congested?—Exactly, sir. I will draw your attention to districts where this congestion could be relieved conveniently. In Arragh we have 1,535 acres of land in farms of land whose extent is over 100 acres, and in Killilagh farms to the extent of 2,151 acres in farms whose extent exceeds 100 acres. These, I may mention, are some of the best lands of Clare. The population of Killilagh is 1,974, and there are 125 uneconomic holdings under £4 valuation. In Killybeggin there are 1,597 acres, and in Ennistymon 1,003 acres.

36652. Mr. O'KELLY.—How do you get these figures?—These are in farms whose extent is over 100 acres.

36653. Give us the names of those who occupy them?—I could give the names of the occupiers in Killilagh.

36654. Mr. KAVANAGH.—How are these lands held?—The majority of them are held under the eleven months' system. A good deal of them are in the hands of the landlord, Mr. MacNamara, that is, the lands of Killilagh. A good deal more of them are held under the eleven months' system.

36655. Are they all in grass?—All in grass. I have the names of those that have them in Killilagh if you want to know, sir.

36656. All these lands you are talking of are in the landlord's hands, and let on the eleven months' system?—The majority of them are.

36657. These holdings under £4 valuation, of which you have given us a list, are they all of the farming class?—They are.

36658. Because going through the country one sees so very few houses of small size. They are large farms as a rule?—In this particular district I speak of you have about five holdings—that is, in Killilagh, where these 2,151 acres are—there are about five holdings in all that district of land. There are no other houses. These houses under £4 valuation, I speak of, are on the mountain side; they are not on the good land at all.

36659. Do they get any labour?—These are best quarters in this district that have been working for some time, and they assist them considerably. The people are also helped by their children from America.

36660. Then they do not depend entirely upon the land they cultivate?—They had to until these best quarters started. Unfortunately for the district they are not going on very well at the present time. They also sent their children to America.

36661. Is there much employment as farm labourers about here?—No, sir, there is very little village. There is another little matter I wish to refer to, and that is as to the Bay of Ballaghacorney. There are thirty families that live there nearly on the fishing. These poor people have no other means whatsoever. There is nothing to assist them. There is no quay, no slip, no harbour—nothing in the world, and they are going out there trying to make this miserable existence at the risk of their lives. I have known them to wait for half an hour before

launching their little boats out between the rocks, lest a wave might dash against the boat and break it. The District Council, seeing there was urgent need to have a boat-ship erected nine years ago or so petitioned the Agricultural Department to do something for them. The Rural Council saw that the improvement was so urgently needed that they provided to contribute £25, and Arny is off the rural district, although they considered themselves heavily taxed at the time, in order to induce the Agricultural Department to contribute a portion. The Department at the time said they would, but when the Local Government Board found that the Rural Council had contributed £25 they stopped in and said the Council had no power to contribute towards the building of a ship or harbour, but they said if the County Council contributed £250 they would then see their way towards a grant of £1,200 towards erecting a ship or pier there. It took some time, as the County Council lived at a distance, to induce or lead them to believe in the urgency for this building, but ultimately they succeeded in granting £150. When the money was granted by the County Council the Local Government Board again stopped in and refused to sanction it unless they granted £300, and said if they would do so they would contribute £1,500.

39662. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That requires explanation surely! Notwithstanding all that, the County Council did grant the £300, with the result that when the money was granted, and the Board asked to proceed with the work, the Local Government Board then stopped in and said the County Council had no authority to grant the money, and that they could not go on with it.

39663. That is a very serious statement to make against a public Department. Do you mean to say the Local Government Board refused it because it was not sufficient, or because it was too small and that it was increased, and then they refused to sanction it. Do you say that?—I do.

39664. Can you imagine a public Department acting in that way?—These are facts. I happen to be very interested in the matter myself, because I live in the locality. I am prepared to stand by it.

39665. Mr. KAVANAGH.—How long ago was that?—It was first started about ten years ago.

39666. Mr. O'KELLY.—How long is it since what you have referred to occurred?—Within the last twelve months.

39667. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Has the matter been finally refused now?—No, sir; our local members brought the matter before the House of Commons, and Mr. Birrell promised to have a Bill run through Parliament legalising the matter, so as to enable the County Council to give this contribution, in order to have the work proceeded with.

39668. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It seems to me that what is most needed is to have the Local Government Board set right?—They say that an Act of Parliament is necessary to empower the local authority to contribute the amount required.

39669. If it applied only to this particular case it would be a private Bill, but if they want to remove any doubt their exists it would require a public Bill?—I am afraid it existed in more cases than this.

39670. Are you yet able to say that this much-needed grant will be made?—We have been led to believe it will, because when Mr. Halpin and Mr. Robinson brought the matter before Parliament they were promised that a Bill would be passed in order to enable them to legislate such a grant, and have the work proceeded with, because it was admitted that the work was urgently needed.

39671. Here the County Council was the body that was willing?—Willing all the time, and before then the District Council. It has been going on for perhaps eight or nine years.

39672. Are you acquainted with the nature of the fishing there?—I am.

39673. You have seen them going to sea?—Yes.

39674. And they have no artificial landing place there?—No.

39675. What do they land upon?—It is upon the beach between two rocks. They have to watch their opportunity outside, within five or six yards of this spot—often remaining there a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes—and then shoot in.

39676. And it opens directly upon the west?—

Exactly, sir; the most exposed point of the compass. Nobody except themselves, who know the place, would venture there.

39677. It is cases they sail?—Yes; when they land they have to carry them on their backs 500 yards up through the rocks.

39678. Do they get mackerel?—It is one of the best fishing stations we have on the coast here for mackerel. We had three or four agents for curing mackerel the last year or two. We had five agents before that.

39679. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Would this harbour allow larger boats to come in than cannot?—It is so he hoped it will.

39680. And you think the fishing would then develop—would they get larger boats?—The men hope to get larger boats, but at present their sole object is to try and get out in their canoes, because when the men in Aran can go and fish the men here have to stand there practically idle.

39681. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Where do the Aran people land their fish?—The Congested Districts Board have a boat outside waiting to take the fish.

39682. Where do they take them?—I could not tell you.

39683. Suppose a proper pier were at Ballaghane, would not the Aran islanders also use it?—They have to use it, as it is for their canoes coming to fish and markets.

39684. Would they not land their fish here, because it would be shorter to take it from the mainland than the island?—It strikes me they would very likely give the fish to the Congested Districts boat outside their island.

39685. If the Aran islanders were catching fish with the object of sending it to market they would come to this market instead of landing it there in the island?—By all means; because during the summer time Lisdoonvarna is a very favourite health resort, and they have to send to Dublin and other places for fish, and if they had the proper landing facilities they would undoubtedly come here to land their fish and go to Lisdoonvarna to sell them. But they are handicapped in that way, and they must give the fish to any agent who will take them.

39686. We understand mackerel is not a local market?—No, sir.

39687. I suppose the people here do not care for mackerel?—Oh, yes.

39688. They would be getting more valuable fish than mackerel?—Yes, larger fish, such as cod and ling. They send them to Galway.

39689. Fresh or cured?—Fresh.

39690. Iced?—Yes. They have refrigerators on this boat I refer to. They have also a steamer that carries the mails to Galway three times a week. Here in Ballaghane they have no facilities. They have to sell the fish locally or cure them.

39691. Do they distribute them in the people?—They do, and they go to Lisdoonvarna and Errislyn and send that way to sell them.

39692. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Your next point?—That would be the drift of my evidence, excepting these large farms in the district that would be available for distribution in the Keshbegh electoral division.

39693. Do you suggest there is any portion of Errislyn Rural District that ought to be scheduled as congested?—I should say Keshbegh, at all events. That is my point. And as should Glenamagh; and there is Ballyteague, where there is a number of holdings under 24.

39694. Mr. O'KELLY.—What is the average-sized holdings in Glenamagh?—There are fifty holdings under 24.

39695. The average size I mean?—I could not tell you.

39696. They must be very small?—I am sure they are, and they are broader mountains.

39697. I see there are 2,000 acres of unimproved land in Fermoye belonging to Colonel Tottenham. Is that grazing land?—Grass land.

39698. How is that land let?—I think Colonel Tottenham grazes the greater portion of that himself.

39699. Does he graze the 2,000 acres?—I am almost sure that he does. I know he grazes land outside of it altogether.

39700. Can you say as a certainty?—I will not say as a certainty.

39701. If Fermoye were scheduled to-morrow as a

Jan. 2, 1907.

Mr. Michael
Commissioner.

June 2, 1907.

Mr. Michael
Connelley.

congested district, how would you proceed to make the holdings economic?—This very land you speak of is in the hands of Colonel Tottenham and a number of others. I think the Estates Commissioners should have compulsory powers to purchase these, and have them divided.

39602. What would be the prospect of acquiring a portion of these 2,000 acres from Colonel Tottenham?—I could not say. I am afraid he would not be inclined to part with them.

39603. Do you think that would be the frame of mind of all the landlords as the various districts in Ennistymon?—We have had very few sales in this sale.

39604. Do you think the reluctance of Colonel Tottenham to sell would be shared by his brother landlords of Ennistymon?—I am very much afraid so.

39605. And if we were confined to the voluntary system alone, there would be no immediate prospect, if the holdings were scheduled as congested, of having them made economic?—Very little.

39606. What is your conclusion?—That the Estates Commissioners should have compulsory powers.

39607. It is a matter of indifference to you how or by whom these powers should be exercised?—Scarcely.

39608. As far as you are concerned, it would be immaterial who did the work so long as the work was done?—Exactly.

39609. Mr. KAVANAGH.—I understand there are three electoral divisions you consider ought to be scheduled as congested?—Yes, sir.

39610. Give me the three?—Kilflagh. Moy is a very congested district. There are 123 holdings there under £4, and 126 over £4 and under £10; and, in my mind, that district ought to be listed under the Congested Districts Board. Also Clonsilla and Fernside. In the latter place there does not seem to be many holdings under £4, yet there are a lot of these lands available. Ballyvaughan is another very congested district. I see there are 175 holdings under £4 and 108 under £10.

39611. Is there sufficient land in the vicinity to relieve that?—In Ballyvaughan there is not a farm of land where there is over 100 acres.

39612. In the rural district is there sufficient land?—Yes; we have a good deal of land within the rural district. Here is the average of farms of 100 acres and more in each electoral division. In Arragh, 778 acres; Ballyvaughan, 776; Clonsilla, 773; Fernside, 8,000; Milltown, 381; Moy, none; Ballyvaughan, none; Clonsilla, 431; Killybeggin, 221; Kilflagh, 2,151; Killybeggin, 257; Lanesboro, 130; Lanesboro, 1,336; Smithstown, 240; Ballyvaughan, 1,116; Rathlagh, 127; Clonsilla, 901; Ballyvaughan, 1,022; Killybeggin, 1,807; Moughlinsboro, 354.

39613. In any case, you have considered you have plenty of land available in the rural district to relieve congestion in that rural district?—It would considerably reduce it, in any case.

39614. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Could you enlarge on an economic holding without changing the holding? Suppose a holding of three or four acres, could you, within a reasonable distance, give him an attached portion, so that he would not be obliged to leave his holding?—As far as Kilflagh is concerned we could. But some people would consider, if one person left his holding and consented to it being divided up amongst the others who remain, he might migrate to other lands, and have an economic holding provided for him.

39615. That case would arise. Is it a practicable thing?—I know the people would be satisfied with it in that district.

39616. It would involve the building of a new house?—Yes.

39617. If they left their holdings they would get the tenant-right they were leaving?—That is another matter. I have been putting that question to people, and they tell me that, provided they get a superior holding, with a residence built thereon, they would not be inclined to ask for the tenant-right of the holding they were on.

39618. If they got a new house erected?—Exactly.

39619. Mr. KAVANAGH.—They would be exchanging the holding they were leaving for the holding they were going into?—Yes, sir. I have put that question to a number of people in the district, and that is the answer I invariably get from them.

39620. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Perhaps the new house might be equal to the value of the tenant-right?—I am sure it would not, because in a great many cases the houses are very poor.

39621. And the tenant-right is very high?—Yes.

39622. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Do the Department of Agriculture operate in this part of the world?—Very little, sir. We get instruction from the lecturer going around.

39623. Have you any demonstration plots?—No demonstration plots.

39624. Do you think instruction without demonstration plots is a useful form of expenditure?—I would rather think not, because I see no benefit derived from it.

39625. What is it that induces you to that view? Have you heard these itinerant instructors?—Yes, sir.

39626. And your view is that without demonstration plots the work avails but little?—Very little.

39627. What else are the Department doing?—Nothing in this district.

39628. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Of course where there is very little tillage experimental plots would be of very little interest to the people?—Very little, except where the small holdings are. In the grass country there are very few houses at all. Where the poor people who have to till and live in on the mountain side in small economic holdings.

39629. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Would they not be more benefited by getting the good land to settle on?—Undoubtedly they would.

39630. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Have the people lost the habit of tillage in the County Clare?—They have.

39631. And that being so, if the tillage is to be encouraged, demonstration plots are essential. Are you aware that in the County Meath the small farmers know extremely little about tillage?—I have heard that fact.

39632. And that statement would not apply in its entirety to the County Clare?—No, sir; they have a good deal about it here, but unfortunately when the young people grow up they have to emigrate; they cannot stay in the county, and the result is there are no hands to till the land.

39633. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Was that the reason that all the best land in Ireland went into grass—was it not in grass long ago?—Oh, yes.

39634. Any thing not following the example of what is called "their betters" by letting their land out in grass?—I would not be inclined to think that. They found tillage would not pay them as well, particularly when they had not the help. There is no use in a man who has a bad farm of land following the example of "his betters" in letting it out in grass, because it will not fatten anything for him—it will not fatten as well as cattle put on good land.

39635. You said you only see tillage in Clare on the worst land?—In our district, because the farms are too big and the poor men cannot afford to get that land.

39636. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You would rather say the cause is a historical one?—I should think so.

Mr. HENRY V. MACNAMARA EXAMINED.

Mr. Henry V.
MacNamara.

39637. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You reside at Ennistymon?—Yes. I am a voluntary witness, and I thought as I am a landlord residing here that I might be able to give some information as to the state of the district. I have resided here for the last twenty-five years on an average for about nine months in the year. My estate comprises about 12,000 acres in the Ennistymon Rural District and the Ballyvaughan Rural District. I have about 500 tenants of all sorts, occupying large grazing farms, small farms, mixed

farms, what we call winterage farms, town farms, cowcase holdings, and I am owner of practically the whole of the town of Ennistymon. I have been a member of the Board of Guardians for twenty-two years, I think—seven years as an assessor and twice I have been elected a guardian. For the last seven years I have been my own agent, and keep an estate clerk.

39638. Perhaps you would read your statement and we will ask some questions?—My estate comprises

about 12,000 acres in the baronies of Carrmacree and Berren. The estate is typical of different classes of land and holdings, including some of the finest grazing lands in Ireland, medium sized mixed farms, common holdings, small farms, rocky wintertime farms incapable of being tilled, small mountain holdings, farms in rough, hilly, townlands, and house property in Kinslaymore. There are about 500 tenants on the estate and about 550 different lettings. I employ my own tenants in the administration of the estate—such as rent-collectors, gamekeepers, and such like. One of them is not a friend of mine, but the wages of ten of them came to about £50 a year. I calculate that the cost of management of my estate is about $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on the tenanted lands.

35639. What do you call rocky wintertime farms?—A wintertime farm is a name that is used in the County Clare shire. It is a craggy farm of barren formation. The cattle are put on it on the 1st of November and taken off on the 1st of May, and you are able to carry your cattle on those farms without giving them hay, except when the ground is covered with snow. That is really what we call a wintertime farm, and it is a good name for it, because it is used during the winter. I am happy to say my tenants and myself are on the very best of terms. We never had any trouble, and I should like to give evidence of the honesty of the people of this district. They are, so far as my experience goes, extremely honest as tenants. Sometimes I have accommodated them with hills, and, with one or two rare exceptions, they have met their obligations. They are honest and honourable. I should like to say something about the stone-quarries. Some of them are on my estate, and I got about £150 a year in rents from them. They are situated in the electoral division of Killinagh and the electoral division of Ballinure, but the most valuable ones are at Doonagore. If you look at the map and run your eye along to the northward of Hag's Head you will see Doonagore marked. That is where the principal quarries are.

35640. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What is the nature of the stone?—It is a beautiful stone, the same as the Donegal stone on Lord Conyngham's estate.

35641. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is it granite?—No, white sandstone. Why they tell me it is so valuable is that it is a beautiful white colour.

35642. Is it hard or soft?—Very hard.

35643. Fitted for building houses?—Yes, some of it has been used in the new War Office in Whitehall, so I have been told. The wages for the quarry amounted to £12,000 or £13,000 a year. There is another quarry between Doonagore and Hag's Head, the quarry of Caheremurragh. The wages there came to about £1,000 a year, and then there are smaller quarries going again towards Hag's Head which would pay about £1,000 or £1,500 a year in wages.

35644. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Who lets these quarries?—They are not all on my estate.

35645. You let your own?—I let them. The Doonagore quarry and the Caheremurragh quarry are worked by English companies. The smaller quarries I let to a number of my small farmers. They are let at so much a perch. I get as much as £5 a perch for some of these quarries for eleven months. They quarry stone and ship the stone from Lisnagar Harbour. It is a great pity Lisnagar Harbour is not better.

35646. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What does it require?—I could not tell you, but strangers coming to Lisnagar seem to make the best state of the harbour worse than the best. They tell me the great trouble is the silt.

35647. Does that not show lack of diligence on the part of the harbour authorities—who is the harbour authority?—The County Council is the harbour authority. I may say the small farmers by carting their stone and their sons by working in the quarries derive the chief benefit, and I am afraid the publicans of the district too, to a certain extent.

35648. Mr. KAVANAGH.—When you say there is £12,000 a year brought in, is that all spent in local labour?—That is practically spent in local labour. Of course it may include the wages of clerks and foremen brought there to superintend the work, but that is money which is also spent in the district, for the officials live there, so that really it comes back to the district.

35649. There is no expert labour imported from England?—There is a certain amount. When it was first started they got some expert labour to teach them how to dress the stone, and then the people took it

up. It requires a certain amount of skill to dress the stone.

35650. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Have the local men still now?—Yes. I think they earn from 25s. to 35s. a week. It is £4, an hour. Most of them are the sons of small farmers or small farmers themselves. The small farmers also earn a good deal by carting the stone. Then there is the usual sea fishing industry carried on along the coast, of which you heard from Mr. Condon.

35651. You have heard the statement made by Mr. Condon about the conduct of the Local Government Board as to this urgently-needed boat slip at Ballinaghlin. Can you from your own knowledge confirm it?—I do not know anything about it. I only know that the master about a boat-slip has been answering there for a long time, but really with the exception of giving a certain amount of employment in the district, I must honestly say a boat-slip would mean no very great wealth.

35652. It would enable the people to carry on their fishing better?—I don't know. If I were going to bring it a case, I would sooner run it on a beach than bring it down on a pier. I do not mean that the expenditure would do no good, but if there was £50,000 or £100,000 spent on a nice little harbour I think it would be of some use. I complain of the manner in which the Board of Works have spent money on a number of small harbours and boat-slips. If they had only taken one county every year and made one good job, concentrating the money on that particular county, and made one really good harbour or two, there would have been a benefit. Instead of wasting and frittering away the money on the small harbours you may have cleared all round the coast—wretched, miserable failures they are. If all the money that has been spent round the coast of Clare had been concentrated at Lisnagar, it would really have been a tremendous benefit to this district. It would have created quite a trade.

35653. And benefited the fisheries also?—Of course, the one includes the other. Then, there is kelp burning and saving seaweed for manure; some of which is carried as far as Gort, about twenty-six miles distant, and sold there. That is done by particularly industrious people, some of them tenants of my own.

35654. Mr. KAVANAGH.—There is not the same demand now for kelp as there used to be?—I believe not. Even the starting of the golf links at Lahinch has been a sort of revenue to the district, boys and men earning 1s. to 2s. a day as caddies. I should say, comparatively speaking, this is a prosperous district. I do not say we are rolling in wealth, but this town has improved during the last twenty years. There are very good farms and estates here in Kinslaymore.

35655. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Has the population diminished in this part of the world?—Yes, I should think it has. We have suffered the same way as other places. Over the whole of Ireland the population has diminished one and a quarter millions during the same period.

35656. It is rather an economic anomaly to find an increase of prosperity concurrent with a diminution of population?—I was referring to the town of Kinslaymore.

35657. Isn't there an economic anomaly there still?—When I say town of Kinslaymore I mean the actual town itself, the general appearance of the town, and the houses being built. It may be a paradox certainly.

35658. Mr. KAVANAGH.—I suppose there was no separate count of the population of the town?—I do not think the population of the town has increased.

35659. It is probably not diminished?—No; about a standstill. The curious thing is that the decline in the population synchronizes with the Land Act.

35660. Mr. O'KEEFE.—And the diminution might have been more if the Land Act had not been introduced?—I do not think that that is a correct inference.

35661. Supposing you had no Land Act, possibly your population might have been lower still?—It might, but when you had the two things synchronizing together you are rather apt to draw a deduction. With regard to tillage, I think an extension of tillage would be of the greatest benefit to the country if it could be done, but I am perfectly certain there is no use introducing tillage as long as Ireland is growing under the wretched fiscal policy of England. It is the fiscal system that has killed tillage in Ireland.

35662. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Has it done the same in England and Scotland?—I could not say.

June 3, 1907.

Mr. Henry V. MacNamara.

June 5, 1867.

Mr. Henry V.
MacDonnell.

35653. Like causes produce like results—Provided the conditions are the same.

35654. Ireland is under the same fiscal system as England and Scotland—I believe so.

35655. And in Scotland tillage is increasing?—And in England it is decreasing.

35656. Is it not a fact that the greatest emigration from Ireland was between 1849 and 1851?—I should say so; but that was after the big famine. Ireland was in a state then that certain people are now trying to get it back into.

35657. By emigration?—No, by the creation of small economic holdings. You will get back to that state in time if you go on dividing up the land.

35658. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is it your theory, the less people the better?—Certainly not.

35659. Then if you lament the decrease by emigration, surely the aim for that is to give the people the means of living?—Quite so, but I do not see that you should always confine it to farming.

35660. You know Ireland as pre-eminently an agricultural country?—Pasturage chiefly, and dairying.

35661. Of course that is a cheaper and easier method of occupying the land. I don't want to say that offensively?—I quite understand; we do not pretend to be very virtuous.

35662. The highest use land could be put to is occupying it for agricultural purposes. Surely the more the land is used for that purpose the better it would be and the more people would be required to do it?—Quite so, but I think you should use the land suitably. Some of these lands at Killybeg are fattening lands, some of the finest grazing lands in Ireland, and I do not think it is a right thing to go and break up old pastures and leas that will fatten. I had a case brought before a special jury of the city of Dublin, and the question was tried whether, from the nature of the holding, what is suitable for? They had to try the suitability of the holding, and one of my witnesses said no man outside a lunatic asylum would go and till that land.

35663. Mr. O'KERRY.—Why did he say that—was it because of the quality of the land?—The quality of the land. It was only suitable for fattening purposes.

35664. Have you ever heard it suggested that land suitable for fattening purposes ought to be broken up, that there ought to be indiscriminate breaking up of fattening land?—I have heard a lot of things suggested at different times, but I cannot give you a special instance.

35665. Can you lay your finger on anyone who, understanding the land question in this country, has said there should be indiscriminate breaking up of grass lands?—I do not think I could without thinking over the matter; I could not tell you straight away.

35666. Mr. KAVANAGH.—I think it is generally the second class of land—store cattle land—which has been suggested for breaking up, not the fattening land?—Yes. In Killybeg nearly all that is fattening land. Of course, it varies in quality. To show that I have no great objection to breaking up farms—I have farms still in my hands there—one of 100 acres. I let portion to a horseman, another portion to a fisherman, another portion to a small farmer, and retain another portion in my own hands. I had another farm of 100 acres which I divided, and I had another farm of 80 acres, which I divided into two parts. All these are yearly lettings, except one for eleven months.

35667. Is that land producing as much as it did before?—I do not know, but it was a great benefit to the people. They are not tillage; they are grazing it, timber and all. I wish the Government would try experimental farming in each county, pay the farmer and votes of the district and publish half-yearly a balance sheet. I should follow that experiment with great interest.

35668. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Would you give them land?—Yes, if they paid me the fair rent.

35669. Should not those who have got the land be expected to do that?—I think they should practice what they preach, at least to a certain extent.

35670. Mr. KAVANAGH.—It would not be an experiment if there was not a rent or an instalment?—Quite so.

35671. That would be more for the Agricultural Department to carry on an experiment of that kind?—Or perhaps the Congested Districts Board. I do not

believe very much in the Agricultural Department. We do not see very much of them down here.

35672. You are essentially a grazing county here, and I do not quite see why they should carry on experimental plots in a country in which there is very little tillage going on?—It really is a dairying and grazing land around here.

35673. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—And there is not much to be learned in the way of dairying and grazing?—There is always something to learn, but I think the people are very good judges of stock.

35674. You think the Department could not teach you much in judging the quality of stock?—No, I do not think they could.

35675. You see the importance of the question the Chairman has put, that while it is very good to criticize the Agricultural Department, yet, seeing there is so little tillage, there would be very little use in teaching people who do not practice it?—Yes, but don't they lay it down that a mixed farm is a good thing, that they should till, and that they should lead the cattle in the winter on turnips and mangolds and that sort of thing.

35676. I take it that your tendency is rather against that form of agriculture?—Honestly, I do not think it would succeed, because as I told you, the people have got out of the way of tillage, as I heard a friend of my own say to me the other day. This tenant was suffering from the cattle dying on the farm, and I was sympathizing with him. "Why don't you break it up?" I said. He said, "There are not the men in the country to break up the hawn," that is, the land in lea. Before the famine, all the country round here was tilled. The hills about Ennistemon were tilled. I filled some of them myself, but it is all spade work, as the hills about here are so very steep. The land could not be conveniently ploughed. I do not know whether you are interested in forestry. I believe forestry would be very beneficial to the country and afford shelter to the land that is wind-swept by the Atlantic gales.

35677. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Would it not be difficult to make trees grow on it?—It would, but it could be done. I should be very glad to show you a few little plots I planted here.

35678. How old are they?—One is seventeen years old. It is about an acre and a half I planted in rather an exposed place, because I wanted it as an experiment. I have planted three other plots, on an average about a quarter of an acre in extent. Any planting that has been done is rather in an exposed district.

35679. Is it very satisfactory?—It is slow, but it is very satisfactory for shelter and little game cover.

35680. Is it wind-blown?—On the exposed side, but you should always put a screen and plant inside that. I do not know whether it was the Congested Districts Board planted the trees at Carna.

35681. Mr. O'KERRY.—That has been a failure?—I am not surprised, because they planted it on the side of a hill facing the ocean, without any shelter being put up there.

35682. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What sort of soil have you planted in?—It is rather good loamy soil.

35683. Low-lying?—Rather low-lying, but not much sheltered.

35684. What wood is it?—I planted mixed wood. The tree I found best to nurse in the island.

35685. It wants moisture?—We have a good deal of moisture. The land we have gets very dry, and of course in this place there are very wet corners. I used it as nurseries for the others. I wish the Government would take it up, because I think it would be a very great benefit to the district. My idea would be that the Government should take up the matter and plant trees along all the public roads.

35686. It is all very good to say the Government should do that, but upon what conditions?—Rent the land for a number of years, and paying the occupiers some bonus for maintaining the trees in a proper condition. When the timber was saleable the Government should pay to the person of whose land the timber was sold some percentage of the price. I would not be in favour of establishing a Board of Forestry, as there are too many Boards in Ireland already. The duties should be taken up by some of the existing Departments.

35687. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Would that be a paying matter for the State?—In the long run, I think it

would. But, like the piers and harbours, I should not like them to rush at it all over the country. My idea would be to take one county at a time.

3696. Your plan would be to take land indiscriminately alongside the roads?—Yes, because no one could then complain that his land was taken invidiously. I would treat everybody alike.

3697. Do you think it would benefit the roads, having trees growing on the roads?—I think it would cut both ways. It would be delightful for the roads to have shelter for motoring and cycling; but on the other hand, you would keep them wet much longer.

3698. On the whole, you are in favour of reforestation?—Yes, with these suggestions. I would not buy out the land, but rent it as a small rent, and if you treated everybody the same way as to the land, there would not be much complaint.

3699. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Have you ever seen the system of forestry in Germany, where it is on an extensive scale?—I have heard a little about it, but I could not speak with authority on it, and as to what I have learned from my own experience and not from books.

3700. I am dealing not so much with the question of planting trees as with the question of property and administration arising out of forestry on a large scale, and the fact that the common land is administered by the local bodies?—I think it would be a pity to go in for it on a large scale, but this planting along by the roads would be benefiting the country. Of course that is the least consideration, but it would get the people into the way of seeing trees and seeing them grow, and not to have the rooted objection to them that exists at present. One thing I would like to refer to in Colonel Tottenham's place at Churnash. Mr. Conditine said that there were 2,000 acres in Col. Tottenham's hands. I know the land pretty well. It is all grass land. I have shot grouse on it.

3701. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You would not think it would be available for the enlargement of holdings?—Most of it would not be suitable for that purpose. It has been greatly improved by Colonel Tottenham, who put up walls, and sod and wire fences. He has built eight or nine cattle houses in the district, and officially managed some of this moorland, and tried to have rough mowing, and to feed the cattle in the winter time up in the houses on the hillside. They are fed in these houses, and the moorland is then put on the land, so really he has been a public benefactor to the district. He spends a great deal of money, and is a particularly kind and charitable man.

3702. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Did not he get a great deal of money?—No.

3703. Did not he get the rent?—I think he only has two tenants.

3704. It is in his own hands?—Quite so. I shot grouse on this land, and it is a mountain—one of the highest in the County Clare; some 1,400 feet. I don't mean that a great deal of it could not be used for one-acre. The one-acre is certainly valuable. Reclaimed bog is, as you know, most valuable land. One of you, gentlemen, said he did not know how it was the worst land in Ireland that was tilled. The reclaimed bog is not the worst land. It is very good land for tillage purposes. It is easily worked and grows very good root crops. I remember a Scotchman coming here with me one time, passing one of these one-acre plots 400 feet above the sea-level near the Cliffs of Moher. He said: "These are magnificent mangels; let us get down to look at them." We stopped the car and proceeded to examine them. He sat down and cried, and said: "I have been farming in Scotland for the last fifteen years on the most scientific principles, and could never grow mangels like that." I say there is an instance of the fertility of this class of land. With regard to the holdings in Killybegh, I do not think there is much congestion in the district at all, because I have about twenty-five holdings up there, of a half-acre, let to fishermen for potato plots. These fishermen who want this potato, or are supposed to pay me, at the rate of 2s. 6d. an acre. That is remarkably fine sandy land.

3705. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You won't deny that there is substantial congestion in the County Clare?—Among the whole county, I should say that it was not a congested county. Take the Registrars' rural

district. The population is some 12,000. It extends from Mullinahally to Liscovanna, and from Fisher-street away back to five miles from Ennis, or nine miles southeast of Ennistymon. If you have only 18,000 people living on that extent of country, I don't see how it can be said to be congested.

3706. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Would you agree that there might be a lot of congestion in it?—You might be congested in a stroke-stroke.

3707. We are not talking of towns. You might have congestion in separate small areas, and quite near these large grazing ranches?—I suppose you might, but you could not be seeking and choosing here and there. I don't think that Killybegh could be called a congested district at all. A great deal of Killybegh is on my estate. I have a number of tenants there.

3708. Mr. O'KEEFE.—There are 144 holdings altogether in the electoral division of Killybegh; 120 of these are under £10 valuation, and 87 of these are under £4-10s.—Yes; but take out these 25 mock tenants straightaway. They are included in the return.

3709. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Even if they were included, there would be thirty-two left?—I suppose it is 24 valuation. That is a farm of two or three acres with an acre of tillage. They ought to be able to live comfortably on that.

3710. On an acre of tillage and two or three cows?—Yes, as a farmer. And he may have more than one holding. That does not give you the whole thing.

3711. Would your test of an uneconomic holding be acreage and not valuation?—I don't recognise such a thing as an uneconomic holding. That is, in the technical sense, I suppose that you employ it in the sense that people are not able to live out of it.

3712. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Have you any theory of your own as to what an economic rent is?—I should say that an economic rent was the amount of rent that the land was able to produce after paying the worker of it a certain percentage and after paying for certain expenditure on the farm.

3713. A definition with which nobody could quarrel. Do you think that on a holding such as you have described an economic rent is possible?

3714. That is to say, a man with one acre of tillage to two or three acres of grass would be able to pay the landlord his rent out of the proceeds of his farm entirely independent of any other outside work?—Certainly; I should say so.

3715. Then there is no congestion at all in this part of Clare?—I do not mean to suggest that there are no such places here and there. Perhaps you might have and there find a small, minute area.

3716. I want to know, if we are to seek for congestion, where we are to discover it according to your test. What is your test of congestion—what kind of fact is it that is uneconomic in your view?—Well, I should say where you had a great number of people. I would not put it on the holding in any way. I think you ought to take a broader view of it. I think it depends on the family to a great extent on the population.

3717. That is why we have the test of the ratio of valuation?—I should think you could work it out with a better definition of taking the population.

3718. Well, take that?—I have not gone into the question. I think your definition. I mean the general definition of congestion, in which the valuation of the district bears a certain ratio to the population—is not that so?

3719. Yes?—Well, I have never looked for a test of what is to be considered a congested district, because I never went into the question.

3720. The present definition is where the valuation per head is under 30s., with the further condition that a fifth of the population reside in the district. That is the old definition, but is that a good definition?—I have not had occasion to study the question very much.

3721. It is on account of that second condition that you say you have not very much of it?—There is none of it as defined by the Congested Districts Board, I take it.

3722. But you have not considered whether that definition might cover congestion?—Well, I presume it did.

June 3, 1907.

Mr. Henry V. MacDonagh.

June 4, 1902.

Mr. Henry V.
McNamee.

39723. Or whether it was a mere experiment with what the Board worked?—I thought that they had very minutely gone into it and considered it in all its bearings.

39724. In fact, one of the terms of reference to the Commission is to deal with that very subject, to inquire into the accuracy or otherwise of this definition?—Yes.

39725. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is there any other point?—I should not care to see the Congested Districts Board extended in this country.

39726. Mr. O'KELLY.—Why?—Because I do not approve of too much speed-feeding for people. I think it is overeating.

39727. Mr. KAVANAGH.—I thought you were rather complaining that the Agricultural Board did not give enough of that?—In this Nationalist paper I see them writing every day like that, that while other counties have been pampered and petted for years with congested areas, Clare has been wholly neglected. Well, I think we have got on as well in Clare as any other district or district in Ireland, and I do not want to be pampered or petted. I want to be let alone.

39728. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What do you understand by being pampered and petted?—I mean a certain amount of grandfatherly legislation.

39729. Looking over the statistics, do you observe that in the County Clare there are twelve electoral divisions wherein the valuation per head of the population is under 30s. That gives a small valuation per family. Would not you consider that something ought to be done in order to bring up the holdings on which those families find themselves to an economic condition?—Well, I suppose it is the fiscal system of England that has done so much harm in this country, the free-trade policy of England.

39730. But, to come down to a closer question, would not you consider that something ought to be done in order to bring up those holdings to an economic condition?—Well, if it was let alone, I think political economy would settle the question for itself.

39731. Is it that it would settle it by the occupiers going out of the country?—Well, perhaps, by going out of the country or by the improvement of farming or something of that sort, or by more land coming gradually on to the market.

39732. Apart altogether from emigration, do you contemplate improvement by the enlargement of existing holdings or by improving the farming of the existing holdings?—By improving the farming of the existing holdings, by making the tillage and farming pay better.

39733. How would you bring about that?—By an alteration of the fiscal policy of England, by a reform in the policy which I consider has done so much harm to Ireland, that is the policy of free trade.

39734. But in the meantime how would you try to improve the holdings on which those families live?—I am not going into details, but I think that by improving the fiscal policy the improvement of the land is a *sequitur*; the farmer would get a good price for his cattle.

39735. I was interested just to know whether you had considered in what specific way the economic condition of the small holders in these electoral divisions could be improved?—Well, of course the development of industry would be a very great thing. I think that if the fiscal system was altered so that the new set working all over the country would be started; and then the farmers' sons on these small holdings would get employment in the mills; just as I was saying about the quarrying industry, that it would be a great thing for the district.

39736. What you would look to in the change of fiscal policy would be protection?—Protection. I like the word "protection" much better than the word "retaliation."

39737. Mr. O'KELLY.—You would look to having the mills re-started?—I think that would come.

39738. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is it quite ascertained that in the districts in which there are these holdings it would be possible to start such an industry as the milling industry. Would it be possible, from your knowledge of the country, to start any industry apart from the land that would employ the men on the small holdings?—Well, of course I have been telling the Commission about the quarry

industry that has been started, and giving figures with respect to the wages and salaries of the people who were employed, and the rate of wages.

39739. You stated that one way of improving the economic condition of the small holders would be by improving the land. How would that come about?—I mean that an alteration of the fiscal system would cause the produce of the land to fetch more money and to be superior.

39740. Mr. SCHERRELL.—Where would the money go?—The money would go into the pocket of the farmer.

39741. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would it stay there?—That would depend on the farmer himself.

39742. You do not mean then by the improvement of the land improvement in the cultivation of the soil?—Well, I think if tillage was to pay the soil should be ploughed, the land should be ploughed and manured, and I take it that that would greatly improve the land. I think the whole agricultural system of Ireland is that unfortunate fiscal system of England.

39743. But there are twelve electoral divisions in the County Clare in which the valuation per head is under 20s.; and would you not think it a long wait for these people to be told that nothing is to be done for them till the fiscal system is changed?—I think there is not a big number of such people, and I think all these other remedies are only nibbling at the fringe of a very big question. I think the question should be treated largely and liberally.

39744. You have examined the question of fiscal relations?—Oh, yes, I take a great interest in that.

39745. What conclusion did you come to?—I came to the conclusion that Ireland was over-taxed.

39746. And does not the Report of the Commission on Taxation in Ireland say that we are being over-taxed to the extent of two and three-quarter millions a year, and according to Mr. Sexton, who differs from the general report, to the extent of even four millions a year?—Well, at the time I thought that two and three-quarter millions, without being extreme one way or the other, was the amount of the over-taxation.

39747. And you consider, I suppose, that it would be a good thing if the two and three-quarter millions came back for public purposes in Ireland?—I think it would be very nice, to do a lot of things with. It is often stated that the landlords have never done anything towards the solution of the question; but this is a scheme that I sent to certain members of the English Government when they came into office in 1895 for dealing with the land question.

39748. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Would you like to hand that on, as we have got many witnesses?—Perhaps you would permit me to read it.

39749. Mr. SCHERRELL.—Would you really wish publicity for that?—It may be a confidential thing?—Oh, no, it is really not confidential.

39750. Do you know the publicity it will get if it is read here?—Well, I have an objection to its being published. It was suggested in 1896. Perhaps you might like to have a look at it.

Schmitt it perhaps to the Chairman and he will advise you.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Perhaps you would hand it in to go on the record.

39751. Mr. O'KELLY.—What do you say you recommended?—This scheme applies not only to residential holdings, but to tenants in bona fide occupation of a grazing farm. This was in 1895, and under the scheme it was to be compulsory on a man to purchase his holding.

39752. Was there compulsion on the landlord as well as on the tenant?—Yes, on certain conditions; but this scheme is all changed now; the landlord under my scheme of 1895 being confirmed in his title to his estates when he could show title to the property for thirty-three years precluding the transfer to the tenant and having the right to all royalties of every description and kind whatsoever. So you see the landlord would get a grand *pro quo* for the low bid.

39753. Mr. KAVANAGH.—That is the basis of the Act of 1903?—I am rather proud of it. And there was a suggestion in it of some.

39754. Mr. O'KELLY.—Do you see any possibility of relieving whatever congestion there is by getting the grass lands from the hands of the landlords voluntary?—Oh, I think that if the landlords were approached on a reasonable way, supposing the Government came to me and said, "There is Michael Murphy very badly off; we are prepared to guarantee that

Michael Murphy will pay his rent; will you give him a bit of land?" I think I would be quite prepared to meet them in that way if the rent was reasonable.

39767. Do you say that you would still continue the man as a tenant?—Yes.

39768. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is not that rather the system that we are trying to get rid of?—I think it would be a fatal mistake if you do.

39769. Mr. O'KELLY.—You have half of the country already gone?—You have only about a tenth paid for.

39770. But that is merely a question of time?—It is very unpleasant for the landlord.

39771. He will get interest for his money?—But he has five per cent. to pay on charges.

39772. But I suppose they will have to part with the land in the long run?—I do not see that.

39773. Mr. SERRAVALLO.—With respect to the fiscal system, which you think is a curse for the whole thing, am I right in supposing that you would have the protective system extended to England as well as to Ireland?—I think so. Up to the repeal of the Corn Laws the two countries were under that system.

39774. And was Ireland prosperous under the protective system?—I think if population is looked upon as a test the population increased enormously between 1800 and 1845.

39775. So that whatever evil consequences attached to the protection laws in England and Scotland did not attach to them in Ireland?—No.

39776. There were no such evil consequences in Ireland?—No; I do not think they affected it, because the two countries were different.

39777. But you are not prepared to deny that they were the source of great poverty and misery in England?—At the time?

39778. The protection laws, the Corn Laws, as they were called at that time?—I think the great mistake that was made, and that England has generally made, as regards her fiscal policy, was going to extremes. I think there should be more elasticity in these things.

39779. But the Corn Laws began at a very low rate and afterwards were increased? Why not have it on an elastic basis?—That is what always appears to me to be a difficulty about the fiscal question. They take it that it must be either one way or the other. I cannot see why they cannot go with the times to a certain extent and alter the present tariff. I think they do it in foreign countries, in America, and in the colonies.

39780. But in dealing with protection we are not in the position of dealing with a thing that is a matter of speculation. We are dealing with a subject that we know all about by bitter experience. Are you prepared to say, with the experience of Ireland in the past, that if the Corn Laws or protection, as it is called, were re-established, there is a probability that Ireland would be better than it is now?—I am perfectly satisfied in my own mind that if there was modified protection it would be for the benefit of England and of Ireland, most certainly of Ireland. That is my belief. I cannot say about Scotland.

39781. But it would just be the same thing?—I do not know. I was very much interested to learn that tillage was increasing in Scotland, and I was greatly surprised to hear it. But they work very hard and very scientifically.

39782. Mr. O'KELLY.—Do you think that agricultural industries would be the result of a modified form of protection, that they would spring up in the country?—I think they would.

39783. Capital would be attracted?—Capital would be attracted.

39784. England would be our biggest competitor there, and do you think it is likely Parliament would ever pass a measure for the protection of Irish industries against English competition?—I am talking of it from the Imperial point of view, and also with respect to England and Ireland.

39785. Do I understand from the answer you gave

a while ago that you think the present system of landlord and tenant should continue?—I do. It would be a great pity—perhaps I am prejudiced in the matter—to get rid of resident landlords, because I know in my own case that I spend in the town of Ennisclonagh as much rent as I get from the town of Ennisclonagh and out of the fields around it.

39786. Then your view is opposed, I take it, to the view of the great majority of the class you come from?—It is. I have never been in favour of purchase and doing away with the existing landlords; because by your doing away with the existing landlords you do not get rid of landlordism. You do away with the existing class of landowners and you will work back to another set.

39787. But you get rid of them in this sense that the tenant pays no rent but an annuity by means of which the holding becomes his own eventually?—Quite so.

39788. Would it be correct to say that in this Ennisclonagh Union in which we have congestion, be it small or large, you have 2,000 acres of land that are not in the possession of tenants but in your own hands?—I do not think that would be correct, but I think that perhaps that might be so if you take in strips bog.

39789. I am taking everything, Bobswee and other places?—Bobswee is all mountain.

39790. Supporting that the uneconomic character of a batch of these holdings could be removed by the acquisition of some of those 2,000 acres, and that that could be done, would you have any objection to parting with any of those 2,000 acres for that purpose?—I would have a great objection to parting with anything unless I was paid a fair and adequate price for it.

39791. Supposing you were paid a fair and adequate price for as much of those lands as was needed for the removal of congestion, would you be willing to part with them?—I would be willing to part with anything if I was paid what I considered the price.

39792. I take it that you would be willing to part with a portion of those 2,000 acres to such a body as the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners for the purpose of using the lands so taken for the relief of congestion?—You do not speak of buying the estate, but a portion of it, and that would cut up the estate very much. You do not speak of buying all, but a portion.

39793. Supposing that you were selling to-morrow, would you be unwilling to sell the unoccupied portion with the occupied portion?—Well, I really have not contemplated the question of selling.

39794. You would have no objection to selling for a fair price?—Yes, at a fair price.

39795. You have not any objection to selling at a fair price?—Not if I got a fair price.

39796. Suppose then that the Congested Districts Board came down and bought the occupied portion of your property and that there still remained unoccupied grass lands, and the Board said, "We wish to have those lands for the purpose of enlarging the holdings of the small occupiers," would you have any objection to have the occupied portion and the unoccupied portion regarded as a whole and sold as a whole?—I would not care what the Congested Districts Board did with it after they had bought it from me.

39797. Would you sell the grass lands with the occupied lands, all together, so that the only question would be the question of price?—I think if I sold at all I would sell the whole estate and clear out.

39798. We do not want you to clear out?—But Othello's compulsion would be gone. I know in my case it would be very unfortunate, because I have a very small dwelling.

39799. But you would take some of the grass lands to enlarge it?—But they are not adjoining, and that is the difficulty with me.

39800. It would be very useful to have landlords resident in Ireland?—I think that soon a great many of them will go out of the country, from what the landlords tell me.

Mr. CONSIDINE re-examined.

39801. CHAIRMAN.—You wish to add something about the quarries. Be as brief as possible, as we have a number of witnesses on our list?—What I wish to say is in reference to the statement about Irishmen

employed by this company in the quarries. I may say that during the whole time since the quarries have commenced to work the majority were Englishmen, I mean the majority of those who had anything like

June 3, 1905.

Mr. Henry V. MacSweeney.

Mr. CONSIDINE.

June 3, 1907.

Mr. Connelley.

positions. And with regard to pay, I have known a number of Irishmen to be working there on domestic work, and they are working at 4s. to 6s. an hour, whereas Englishmen doing the very same work would get 10s. to 1s. The Irish workers were as expert workers, and they had to work at reduced wages beside the Englishmen who were doing the very same work.

39768. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Are you speaking of the Shamrock Stone Quarries?—The very thing, my lord. Another thing I wish to say is this. Very few Englishmen have come across that could work the stone with the Irish. You heard Mr. MacNamara say that the material was very hard. It really was so hard that no Englishman is able to work it. They got restless wrists. I have seen them after working for a week going back and not able to hold their work, and they have had plenty of experience; and the only men that make any hand of it are Yorkshiremen.

39769. Have they been trained on similar stone?—Yes; the stone is so hard, my lord, that they cannot stand the dressing, and the wrist swells up.

39770. The Yorkshiremen, from your statement, may have had some special training that the other Englishmen did not get?—I think I may explain it in this way, that the majority of them are Irishmen who went over to Yorkshire. I am not in the least prejudiced. I know that is the fact.

39771. How many men are employed in the quarry?—At present there are only about forty, and there were originally about 120.

39772. Mr. Sweeney.—How many of those are Irishmen?—The majority of them are Irish at present. There was a slump in the work some time back,

and all the Englishmen had to leave, which accounts for the majority of them being Irishmen at present. The Irishmen who were able to turn out equal work with the Englishmen were working for 4s. to 6s. an hour, whereas the others were getting 10s. to 1s., and they challenged them to stay in at two pikes of stone and see would they be able to turn out equal work, and yet they would not take up the challenge, and the Irishmen are working at reduced wages.

39773. Perhaps the explanation may be that the quarries were not constructed for by an Irish contractor and that an Englishman would have more sympathy with his countrymen?—Yes, but if a man was able to do his work would not you expect that he would get the same wages?

39774. But human nature is the same in Englishmen as in Irishmen?—Yes.

39775. Mr. Kavanagh.—Is the business of the quarries increasing or decreasing?—It is decreasing. I am sorry to say.

39776. Are any of them closed altogether?—Yes, there is one closed down for years, and there is another that is nearly closed down practically for two years, and working on a very limited scale at present.

39777. The demand for stone is not increasing?—The demand for stone is not increasing because the cost of conveying stone to England is considered too much. They cannot get a market.

39778. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is the depression only temporary?—I am afraid it is more than temporary.

39779. Have the company had difficulties of their own?—Well, they have had,

Mr. DANIEL O'LOUGHLIN EXAMINED.

Mr. Daniel O'Loughlin.

39804. CHAIRMAN.—Where do you reside?—Lisdoonvara.

39805. You are representative of Ballyvaughan district?—Yes.

39806. And you also represent the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction?—Yes, of Clare County Council.

39807. Have you handed in a statement?—Yes, a short one.

39808. Perhaps you had better read it?—I intended in giving evidence on this question to deal with the whole county, but I understood that you will have a sitting in Scariff and also in Kilrush, and that you will have evidence before you from parties that are more conversant with the needs of those districts than I am, and I think it better not to occupy your time here, so I will deal with the coast line from Moy to a point which separates Ballyvaughan from Galway, and I shall also dwell on the decrease of the population of the county for the last sixty years. In 1850 or 1851 the population was 282,000, but at the present time it is only 120,000. It is hardly half of the population that was then, and from my point of view if that decrease should continue at the same rate high-class agriculture cannot be performed in the county for want of labour. The decrease is so great that agriculture in any form that would be remunerative could not be carried on.

39809. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have the people gone from the county to America?—Yes, my lord.

39810. America is the country to which they principally go?—Yes, nearly all. A few go to Australia and Canada, but principally the emigration is to America. I understand that one of my colleagues in the County Council, Mr. Connelley, has placed before you evidence of the congestion in several parts of the Ennistymon Union. I find that in the Moy Electoral Division, to which I referred, there are 311 ratings, of which 123 are under £4 and 126 over £4 and under £10. In Lisdoonvara 226 ratings, of which 97 are under £4 and 47 over £4 and under £10. In Killilagh 278 ratings, of which 125 are at and under £4 and 71 over £4 and under £10. Of these there are 113 holdings in Killilagh valued at or under £2 12s. each. In the Ballyvaughan Union there are over 200 holdings rated at and under £4, and 200 ratings over £4 and under £10. The largest number of these holdings are situated on the sea coast; Abbey, 51; Dramorey, 50; Gleninagh, 51; and Derron, 11—all rated under £4—303 in all. In Abbey there are 4 rated over £5 and under £10; in Dramorey, 45;

in Killilagh, 44; and in Derron, 14. The most effective means for dealing with the congestion, which I look upon in these cases as real congestion, would be by the enlargement of small holdings by means of the division of untenanted grass lands. In the parish of Killilagh you have a large tract of untenanted land, some of it held on the eleven months' system, and some being non-residential; and these lands might be sub-divided into suitable holdings and distributed, first to those who have no land or a small portion of land appertaining to their houses, and afterwards among the small holders; and I think that would partly relieve the congestion there.

39811. Mr. Kavanagh.—Would you give the preference to the man who is practically a labourer now, who has no land at all?—I think, sir, they should have the first claim. I think a man who has no land, and who has a little homestead and a little plot of ground attached to that homestead, should be entitled to the first share in the allotment of the land.

39812. Yes, and then you would take away the whole of the labour from the country, you would convert them into small farmers?—Certainly, the labourer has every claim, because we are deriving our greatest supply of labour from that class of farmer at present.

39813. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You regard them as more a class of labourers than small occupiers?—I do, because their sons are in a great many instances working for people about, and then they contract for roads, and they do the principal part of the work of the county—the farmers' sons.

39814. Would the small farmers in this district rank as labourers?—They do at present rank as labourers.

39815. In this particular district the labouring class is not a distinct class?—No, it is not, my lord.

39816. Not to the same extent as in a good district?—No, it is not.

39817. Mr. Kavanagh.—But will a man who has no land himself labour?—He must.

39818. And there is a great demand for labour in the country?—Well, there is, but not to the extent that it is needed. We have not the amount of labour in the country at all that is required.

39819. You have just stated that the land is out of cultivation for want of labour?—Labour is too expensive. The cropping and the working of the land would not pay them at the present price of labour.

39820. I suggest that if you gave land to those

small holders you would do away with all labour altogether in the country?—That would not follow, as a matter of course, because if you take the census of population the labourer is distinct in any other county, but where there is competition you will find that the principal source of labour is the small farmer.

39521. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Are these grass lands which you consider might be divided near the places in which the small farmers live?—They are principally adjoining them.

39522. So that without changing their residences the holdings could be enlarged?—Not exactly the whole of them, but the majority of them.

39523. Would you suggest that the land left should not be used for navigation, but for the enlargement of the present holdings?—Yes.

39524. Do you suggest that the land left affected by such a process should be fairly compensated?—Certainly. I would not inflict a hardship on anybody. No interest should suffer.

39525. Your object would be to enable the men to get out of the land itself the means of livelihood as small farmers?—You could not provide for all of them out of the land. The sub-division of the present amount of land would not be adequate.

39526. The unoccupied land you would put forward as your first demand?—Yes.

39527. Do you think that would meet the case to a certain extent?—It would go a long way towards it.

39528. If the men had large farms would they till them?—There is a good deal of the land here available for distribution that would not be good for tillage. Some of it would and some would not.

39529. That would depend on the quality of the soil?—Yes, on the quality of the soil.

39530. Do you think the increasing of the holdings in the way that you propose would tend to keep the young men in the country who would otherwise emigrate to America?—I have no doubt of it. I am sure it would.

39531. If that is so it would tend, so far, to keep more labour in the country?—Certainly, my lord.

39532. And the amount of labour kept in that way in the country would be commensurate with the additional demand made on it through the enlargement of holdings?—In a certain sense these holdings would create a source of employment for people about there, and the surplus labour which would be created would afford facilities for the rest of the population needing it.

39533. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Tradesmen and shopkeepers would require labour?—We all feel a great difficulty in procuring hands at the present time. There is another matter, of course, that would greatly relieve congestion. That would be the development of our coast fisheries. We are at present in the unfortunate position that though we have an inclination to develop these fisheries we are not in a position to do so owing to legal difficulties.

39534. When you say you have an inclination, what proof do you give of that?—For instance, in the case of the fisheries, I was instrumental in moving for the erection of a pier at the fishing station of Ballaghline. The County Council voted £150 towards its erection, and the Ennistymon Council voted £150 also.

39535. That is the case Mr. Condon mentioned?—Yes. The Department of Agriculture sent down one of their inspectors, Mr. Gwyn, and he conferred with me on the matter and went to see the proposed site, and he said it was one of the most ideal sites that he had seen and one of the most needed, and when we came to investigate the matter he suggested that instead of spending £400 or £500 upon that pier it should cost at least £1,500. The Department very cheerfully offered to contribute £1,300, the county at large and the district of Ennistymon contributing £200 jointly. But after a good deal of negotiation and correspondence on the matter it was found that the county was not at liberty to contribute anything towards a pier which cost more than £450. That is one of the old Grand Jury laws, passed in 1836, that the county had no power to raise money or levy money for the purpose of constructing or assisting in the construction of a pier the cost of which exceeded £450, nor had we power to take over the control of it in the present state of the law; so that the thing had remained in its present state for the last two or three years. At one time the Treasury said they would waive any objection they had to the

giving of the grant, and when matters were approaching the giving of the loan they said they would not give it, and they withdrew the grant from this Ballaghline fishing pier. There is also the oyster fishery in Ballaghline. They would be a source of great employment and of considerable wealth if they were properly cultivated. There are only two at present at work—Barren bank and a private bank—the others are derelict, and no stock has remained on them. There is no attempt to cultivate them.

39536. Who work the Barren one?—A limited company.

39537. Where from?—Droghda, I think, principally.

39538. What do they do?—They raised last year £240 worth of oysters.

39539. And what is done with those oysters?—They are sold on the Dublin market.

39540. But what work do they do?—They purchase young oysters, seedlings, and put them down there to grow and fatten.

39541. Where do they get them from?—Connemara principally. They are experimenting with spat this year. I do not know what success.

39542. Do they purchase them or go to dredge for them?—They purchase them in Connemara and put them down here to fatten.

39543. And do they do nothing with the spat themselves?—They have tried on several occasions, but unsuccessfully. They tried on the French principle and put some on these beds, and they should be able to produce them themselves from spat.

39544. And they are not private property of any kind?—They are not private property. No. They purchased the interest of the former owner.

39545. You say that there is a company?—It is worked by a public company.

39546. You say that the oyster beds in the vicinity of Ballaghline are not sufficiently worked?—The Barren bank is worked by a public company; but all the beds are classified under the name of Barren.

39547. But there is only one bank worked?—I believe Mr. MacNamara is owner of about 200 acres of oyster beds which are not worked at all.

39548. They are not worked at all?—No.

39549. Are there any oysters on them?—I believe not.

39550. And were they known to be there before?—Oh, yes, they were very largely stocked, and yielded a great deal of profit thirty years ago.

39551. What is the objection to stocking them now?—I do not know. It seems want of capital or want of enterprise on the part of the people concerned.

39552. And there was a good return?—There was a grand return for those oysters, because they commanded the highest price in the market.

39553. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—What reason have you for saying that those fisheries if properly developed would yield an immense return?—It has been ascertained that there are fish in the waters off the Clare coast, and the fishermen of this county go to the Aran Islands, off Galway, to fish. There is proof positive that there are fish in these waters, but here there are no facilities to fish.

39554. When you say that these fisheries are sadly neglected, do you mean that there is not sufficient accommodation on the coast for fishing boats?—Not sufficient accommodation here, in the first instance, for boats, nor sufficient attention paid to the needs of the men. They get no training in fishing, and they are pursuing their calling with the primitive methods adopted a hundred years ago.

39555. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Some of them have gone away to other places?—They have to go because there is no shelter.

39556. And then you cannot say they have no knowledge of fishing, because they will get that knowledge in other places?—Any knowledge they have is primitive, indeed.

39557. They would not fish off Donegal?—They do not go far. Very few go to Aran.

39558. They do not go outside Ireland itself?—They fish from the mainland here as far as the Aran Islands.

39559. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Where are these boats put up?—There is no place to put up. There is no fishing harbour. There is a small one at Milford and a small one at Carrigrohilly. These are not large, but small ones, and there is no fishing practically of any consequence on this coast, and

June 8, 1907.

Mr. Daniel O'Leahy.

June 1, 1907.

Mr. Daniel
O'Loughlin.

during the summer season people have great difficulty in obtaining fish. Several of the hotels in Liscovanna procure it from Grimsby.

30690. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—There is a harbour on the island of Arran?—Yes.

30691. And is there fish landed there?—Yes.

30692. Where?—The men are not there to fish. The fishing population have disappeared from there.

30693. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is there a shelter harbour?—Apparently a shelter harbour at Ballyvaughan. In Ballyvaughan close on a hundred people mainly interested by the fishing industry, and all that will disappear in a few years if there are not better facilities got.

30694. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You say fishing now does not pay?—Not as the way it used to. It cannot be pursued. It would pay if they could get to sea and return in safety, but they cannot.

30695. You say there was a large fishing population at one time?—Yes.

30696. And they must have had boats then?—They must have had boats at that time.

30697. But the facilities are the same that they were in those days?—They are.

30698. In fact they are rather better if anything, better than they were forty or fifty years ago?—But they are not up-to-date in any way.

30699. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Have you any knowledge of the year in which the fishing population disappeared from that coast?—Gradually. Thirty years ago there were three times as many employed in the fishing industry as now; four times as many. Those people do not pursue it as a fixed calling. They have some little land, and they till this and go occasionally to fish.

30700. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Do you think that the fishing population would return?—I believe they would if there were more facilities.

30701. Do you think there is money in fishing, but that more facilities require to be given for it?—More facilities.

30702. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You suggested to the Chairman that fishing is one means of giving employment to the population. You also mentioned an addition to the holdings of the smaller occupiers by the breaking up of the grass lands. Before you took the witness chair, another witness alluded to a query that has been developed. The quarries could be made the means of employment?—Were it not for the employment in the quarries for the past fifteen years, the population in Cough and Liscovanna would have disappeared nearly altogether.

30703. How many people are employed in three quarries?—Between 130 and 150 in one quarry, and 50 in another. They were practically employing 200 men all the year round, summer and winter, and that source of income would give £250 a week in that district alone.

30704. Do you think it would be possible to have that repeated at several points of the Clare coast?—I do not think that would be possible, because you have not the material to work upon. The quarries are confined to one particular district.

30705. And if that be so, it may be the means of relieving congestion, but to a limited extent?—So it is in that particular area. For some time past they have given employment.

30706. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But even the existing quarries are not working altogether?—I believe there was some trouble, financial difficulties principally, I believe, and if those were overcome they would be a great source of income in the district.

30707. Now, about cottage industries, you have some points to bring before us?—That would refer principally to the Ballyvaughan district and the electoral divisions of Drumreebry, and also Killlaph. There are large farms of land practically untenanted available in these districts, but from the very nature of the land, I believe the subdivision of them would not be of much benefit, because the soil is not arable and the holdings are at present so large and so sparsely watered that you could not divide them into suitable holdings for small occupiers; and then in order to relieve the congestion in those places, a local or home industry should be started. The people are very apt to take them up.

30708. What would you suggest?—If there was hand-loom weaving introduced in the homes or embroidery or any small home industry it would be a

benefit to the family, and in the end it would bring them a great amount in each year.

30709. Was there ever any industry of that kind in this country?—No, sir; there was none at that part at all events, or in any part of Clare as far as I understand. The principal source of income is at present from the land all over the county.

30710. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Are there sheep in the mountains?—There are.

30711. You would need sheep in the locality to produce the wool which the weaver would consume?—Oh, my lord, we have plenty of sheep.

30712. And then you consider that weaving might in some districts be a useful occupation for men?—I am sure that it would be of great advantage.

30713. And for the girls, what do you suggest?—Embroidery or some other home work that they would follow.

30714. Or Irish crochet. Has anything been done in the country districts in that way?—They had one industry in Ennis; the knitting industry. That is the principal one, and it has been a great success so far.

30715. But in this district has any industry been proposed to employ females?—No, none at all; but in fact as far as the Department of Agriculture has gone, it has mainly attempted to improve the breed of cattle, and I do not approve of the methods which they have employed even to do that.

30716. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is there stocking-weaving in Ennis?—There is, sir.

30717. And has it been a success?—Yes, a financial success, but it is owned by private capitalists. We contributed towards the training of the girls in the first instance, but our contribution will be withdrawn.

30718. Has the public contribution been withdrawn?—I think it will be withdrawn this year. It is established now on a profitable basis.

30719. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—That is a satisfactory result of your contribution?—Yes, it has given employment to many hands.

30720. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It is paying?—It is paying.

30721. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You are a member of the County Committee of Agriculture. You stated that the Department has not done much work down here?—I said that I did not approve of the methods they have adopted to improve the breed of cattle. One drawback is that they give premiums to bulls before they are bought. The Department consider that they are conferring a great benefit on a farmer who gets a bull by giving the premium, but that increases the price of the bull. I stated thus to the Department some time ago, and what I suggested was that the number of bulls in each district should be purchased in the open market before the selection for any premium, and it would be every man's interest in buying a bull to see that he bought the best, and that they should be put into local competition then. At present a man has to buy a bull for, say, £45, which would not realise more than £22 or £25 in the open market if the bull were sold without the premium. And the farmer is supposed to benefit by the premium, but he has to pay it out of his own pocket ultimately, because it inflates the price of the bull. If there are a certain number of bulls allowed to each district, my opinion is that they should be first bought in the open market.

30722. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—And is not that done?—It is not done. The bulls awarded premiums are placed at centres fixed by the Department, and the farmer must go to those centres and take those bulls; otherwise if they buy a bull in the open market he may not be awarded a premium at all, though he may be superior to the one that gets a premium.

30723. In other words, it is not the farmer who has to select the bull?—He may select the bull when he likes, but he may not get a premium after selecting him. The farmers have to purchase the bulls at certain centres where the premiums are awarded. To give you an idea of the way it works, I am aware of a case where one man had applied for a premium bull. He went to Athlery, where there is a model agricultural farm kept by the Department. There were six or seven bulls there, but although they were premium bulls he would not take any of them, and he was prepared to give £45 in cash down for one of them, and that bull was allotted to some other farmer before him.

38904. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is your main point this, that the selecting of bulls for premium before the purchase inflates the price of the bull?—It inflates the price of the bull by the amount of the premium. He gets the premium, but he pays for the premium with his own money. The real price of the bull is inflated by the amount of it.

38905. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But he gets the money back?—He does certainly because he is paying for it in the first instance. He derives no benefit from the premium, because it inflates the price of the bull by the amount of the premium.

38906. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Your complaint is that the effect of the action of the Agricultural Department in selecting the bull for premium before it is purchased is to send the bull up in price?—Yes.

38907. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—By the amount of the premium?—By the amount of the premium.

38908. But he gets that back?—But there is no benefit conferred on the farmer who gets the bull.

38909. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But he might get two premiums?—Yes, and three; but all the same I think the premiums ought not to be awarded till the bulls are bought and put in upon competition with each other. And then the indiscriminate service of cows does not lead at all to the improvement of the breed of cattle.

38910. And then you say that the coastline ought to be scheduled as congested?—Yes, sir; all the coastline of Clare ought to be scheduled as congested. If you do not, under the present state of the law, the conditions of the small farmers cannot be improved.

38911. Would they be inclined to migrate if you could not enlarge their holdings where they are?—In a great many cases.

38912. Where you could not do that would they be inclined to move from the coast line into the land?—I am sure they would. In the Ballyvaughan Union

we have a good deal of unwatered land not entirely let on the eleven months' system. We have in all ninety-six large farms there, some of which are let on the eleven months' system, and I was speaking to a grader today who has some of this land and he said he would be only too happy at any time to be put in a way of selling this land to the Congested Districts Board, and I am sure the same remark applies to a great many others that would be only too happy.

38913. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That is if they get the price they want?—Oh, of course, the question of price will have to be considered as a reasonable price.

38914. The price is the most essential thing?—You could hardly expect any man to part with the land unless he got reasonable compensation.

38915. It is let on the eleven months' system?—Yes. But the eleven months' system is uncertain.

38916. Then why is it done?—Because in some years that would not give 20 per cent. of what it would in other years. It is a precarious sort of thing. Sometimes they pay for it in advance. At other times they get the crop for eleven months.

38917. Do the owners actually exact the rent in advance?—In some cases they do. I know that in some cases the rent is paid in advance.

38918. And then you would give compensation for that privilege?—No, not for the privilege of paying in advance; for if you purchase you have to pay in advance. If you purchase the landlord's interest you have to pay him in advance also.

38919. With regard to the eleven months' system, why was that system introduced?—It was introduced by the landlords, because under the Land Acts they would otherwise have to serve twelve months' notice if they wanted to take up the lands, and it relieves them of compensation for disturbance.

MR. PATRICK GARRY EXAMINED.

38920. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What part of the county do you come from?—Broom, in Corcun Union.

38921. What have you to lay before us?—There are 270 families in the two parishes of Broom and Killybeggy at a total valuation of £4000 2s., which would make an average of about 25 2s. per family. In that area there are only 150 rated occupiers over £10 valuation, and there are nineteen grass farms held by outsiders from Limerick and some other districts, and ten on the eleven months' system; and three farms partly derelict.

38922. How did that come about?—Well, the parties in the district are making them so. They do not want to have outsiders come there while they themselves are starving.

38923. Is this on the sea coast?—No, sir, it is not.

38924. Between here and Ennis?—Within eight miles of Ennis.

38925. Between us and Ennis?—Yes, sir. In the other portion of the union outside that district altogether the total valuation of all the farms held on the eleven months' system and otherwise would be £2,174 10s., nearly all held by outsiders. I expected Father Garry would be here to give evidence on the Corcun Union, but I think he was detained in some way.

38926. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—And would there be much difficulty in acquiring this land?—No; it is the best land in this county, except a little about Liscacavanna, and there is no other land in the county better.

38927. Is it left severely alone at present, or what do you mean by saying it is derelict?—Oh, no; that much is not derelict. It is held by outsiders on the eleven months' system.

38928. And is it near the holdings of the small occupiers?—Yes.

38929. Would it be sufficient in quantity to enlarge all the farms that need enlargement?—Oh, indeed it would, and leave a good deal of the land besides.

38930. You say there are eleven such large farms?—There are eleven in the two parishes of Killybeggy and Broom.

38931. There is no one residing on those farms?—No one except herds and a couple of dogs.

38932. And the tenants of them live at a distance?—Yes.

38933. Are they used for grazing cattle or sheep?—For grazing cattle and sheep.

38934. Would the land be suitable for agriculture? Mr. Patrick Garry.

—Yes, except a couple of the farms.

38935. What interest have the present tenants in their occupancy of that land?—Well, only this eleven months' interest.

38936. The interest is, therefore, really in the owners' hands?—Yes.

38937. Do you think the owners would be willing to part with the lands for a fair price?—In some cases I think they would.

38938. Would your proposition be to acquire this land for the enlargement of small holdings?—It would.

38939. Do the small holdings surround this grazing tract?—They do in some cases.

38940. Is any of this land evicted land?—No.

38941. If the men who had small holdings got an enlargement would they till the evicted holdings?—They could till them in any way, and I am sure they would, too, a good deal of it.

38942. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Who are the eleven months' takers of this land, are they graders at a distance who took it for eleven months?—I could give you the names.

38943. Their names would convey nothing to me?—They are all at a distance; they are from Limerick and Ballinacree, and some from Kinnitymore, here.

38944. Gradiers?—Yes.

38945. Is the land near enough to enlarge the economic holdings, and to parcel out the land in particular places of it?—Oh, yes; because the farms are not altogether. They are very much scattered. There is another thing I would wish to bring under your notice, and that is the necessity of having a drain. There were some steps taken about thirty years ago by Colonel Synges to have it drained, and there is about 400 acres of the land drained then, and it is considered that it would not cost a great deal to have it drained. Here is a map which explains it (produced). All this line (indicating) is liable to flood.

38946. All the blue mark?—The blue mark—between four and five hundred acres.

38947. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is that along the course of the river?—It is flowing into the Fergus River here.

38948. And how does the water flow in the two places?—It is a lower level?—Where the water flows

June 2, 1905.

Mr. Patrick
Carr.

into the Fergus River is 48 feet lower than where it rises in Ballyneilman Lake, according to level taken by engineer. There is a portion of the drain made before on Colonel Byrge's property. He cut a passage and made a kind of drain into it, but it was stopped by the next owner.

39938. How long does the water last?—At nearly every flood it gets the water.

39939. And between the floods it is dry?—Well, for about two months in the summer only.

39941. Mr. KAVANAGH.—It was stopped by the next owner?—By the next owner.

39942. Why would not he let it go on—would not he do anything himself?—It was considered that most of the work of the cutting that was to be done was in his portion of the property, but I believe they were in poor circumstances at the time, and they did not want to invest any money.

39943. And the other source of the drain would be cut in the river?—Yes.

39944. How many acres do you suppose are under water now?—About 500 acres.

39945. They would not be flooded now?—Well, some of it is presently a marsh.

39946. Did you bring any evidence of it before the Commission on Arterial Drainage?—No, but it was brought before the County Council, because it was thought the County Council might take steps.

39947. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Did they take steps?—I believe they did.

39948. To bring it before the Commission on Arterial Drainage?—Mr. O'Loughlin, here, might say.

Mr. O'Loughlin.—The matter was brought before the County Council, but it was stated that there was a rule in existence that the County Council had no right to interfere with it, and some of the members brought it before members of the Drainage Board, and they did not think that that lake was included at all in the sphere of operations.

Mr. O'KEEFE.—My question was as to whether the Clare County Council was asked to give evidence before the Arterial Drainage Commission, Mr. O'Loughlin.—There were two men appointed to give evidence, and they appeared before the Arterial Drainage Commission.

Mr. ERNEST BROWNE examined.

Mr. Ernest
Browne

39951. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What district do you wish to give your evidence about?—Well, not any particular district. I think I wrote to the Secretary sending my precise of what I should like to give evidence about. I am connected with one or two estates that I think are congested more or less, but I do not want to go into particular estates. It was more the division of land into small economic holdings so as to keep labour in the country and the want of land for that purpose and how to get it.

39952. Are you the agent of an estate?—I have got an estate myself in Clare, and I am agent for Colonel O'Callaghan, of Bedyne, and I am agent for the Westropp estate, and I am agent for the O'Shea estate, and I suppose about five estates in Clare.

39953. Then you speak as a landlord and an agent, too?—And a farmer. I am farming about 2,000 acres for the last twenty-three years in five counties.

39954. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—In the 2,000 acres that you farm, is a considerable portion of the land under tillage?—Where it is necessary. In one farm I have of about 250 acres, I have twenty-eight Irish acres under tillage. I am speaking in Irish acres. I understand Irish acres better than English acres. Of course the proportion is five to three. Three Irish acres are five English acres.

39955. How many acres in all of the 2,000 would be under tillage?—It varies; not so much now as it used to, but in all, I suppose, fifty Irish acres.

39956. I just wanted to get that fact before you proceeding with your evidence?—Yes. What I intended to say was more from my own experience, what I wished to suggest to the Commission as to acquiring the necessary sort of land, how to divide it, and what my ideas are about dividing. I am quite in favour of making economic holdings, especially in cases where large holdings are surrounded by very small and uneconomic holdings, and where those large holdings are of the type that can be used for mixed farming, just what we want to introduce

Mr. O'KEEFE.—Did they give evidence on this? Mr. O'Loughlin.—I do not think they touched that district at all.

Mr. O'KEEFE.—What did they represent? Mr. O'Loughlin.—I think they gave evidence about Scariff.

39949. Mr. O'KEEFE.—As I understand, the Commissioners were asked for evidence in connection with the floods, and they did not get it?—No, sir; I think not.

39950. Mr. KAVANAGH.—At what date was this resolution sent up to the County Council?—About two years ago.

39951. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What is the area of the lake?—Well, I did not ask that of the engineer.

39952. How many miles is it, about?—About two miles.

39953. Ballyneilman Lake is in the watershed of the Fergus. Does the river flow from it or into it?—From the lake.

39954. What is the name of it?—There is no name presently.

39955. Is it Ballyneilman—is it the river that flows down here (indicating)?—No, sir, it is not. This is flooded by the mountain river.

39956. What is the river that it flows into?—It flows into the Fergus River.

39957. Mr. KAVANAGH.—When the land is not flooded is it in the occupation of anybody—can anybody use it, and is it in use?—Oh, it is. It is cut for meadow. Sometimes the flood takes the meadowing away, and the greater portion of it cut for meadow; there is another portion that is held as commonage.

39958. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—You have stated that this particular question of drainage was not placed before the Drainage Commission?—I am afraid not.

39959. But at the same time you know, I suppose, that the findings of the Drainage Commission in their report would apply to a case of this kind?—Yes, I think so.

39960. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have you any other point, Mr. Carr?—No.

into this country. We want more tillage on tillage land. I do not hold at all to go into the heavy fattening lands of Limerick, Meath, Kildare, and Westmeath, that you could divide them into small economic holdings, because they are not good for tillage. They are too heavy. It is no use trying to till them. They turn into a very heavy soil, and you cannot break them and till them, and the crop is not satisfactory.

39961. Mr. KAVANAGH.—And also they are necessary for the cattle trade of this country?—Quite necessary, sir, that we should have such lands for fattening the cattle by grazing; and it is also absolutely necessary that we should have small holdings for tillage purposes, and I think Providence has made such holdings, plenty of them; suitable for all we can supply the cattle with if we fed them better in the winter. But we do not, because we do not till, and if we tilled we would employ more labour.

39962. Mr. O'KEEFE.—Have you seen the work carried out by Mr. McGinn in the County Meath?—No, I don't know Meath. I would not like to speak from any experience of Meath. My experience is all of Munster.

39963. You have remarked upon the heavy quality of the land in Meath. Was that by experience?—No; but I know from the knowledge I have gained upon about 4,000 farms of land valuing that there is in Limerick heavy land and in Meath heavy land. Of course there is more limestone in Limerick, and there is a heavier soil. I should think not so deep even in the County Meath.

39964. You think it impossible to till these lands?—Not impossible on the fringe, but impossible on the fattening portions of land. Dairying land is a rich land which requires more subsoil, but not as much heavy clay as purely fattening land.

39965. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is there geologically fattening land?—Of course. It is a heavy, deep

soil with limestone. There are many types of fattening land.

30072. How do you know it is fattening land?—Because I have fattened on it.

30073. Is there a special category of land which is by nature fattening land?—Certainly.

30074. In my country cattle have been fattened on some of the poorest land?—Then it has some quality in it.

30075. No, but small holders fatten cattle for the market?—Do they give them any help in the way of feeding?

30076. They till their land and could not that be done in Ireland?—Of course.

30077. If the feeding can be done in another way, why are you keeping this land in Ireland waste?—It is not waste.

30078. But it is not cultivated?—But you need not put a 10-stone horse to carry 15-stone. The 10-stone horse is very useful for its own purpose, for the light weight for which it is suited. It is exactly the same thing with land. You want certain portions of tillage land and you want certain portions of fattening land.

30079. You must have this land, which is the very best land made by nature for work, let the waste of this system of non-tillage is to be kept up?—No, sir. I think that there is plenty of tillage land—leave aside your fattening land—to support the carrying power of Ireland if it is tilled. There is plenty of fattening land to finish the beasts up to the carrying power of Ireland also. And thus I can assert from my personal experience that if you turn down the surface of essentially fattening land with the spade it will not recover itself for twelve years or fifteen years or twenty years. Now, that is my experience as a practical farmer of a type of fattening land.

30080. You say "essentially fattening land." You assume a certain thing?—I do not assume it. I know it.

30081. It is an assumption to me. It is contrary to my experience. Our difference lies in that. You assume that it is calculated to fatten cattle and to do nothing but to fatten cattle?—I do not say that it is calculated to do nothing but fatten cattle, but that it is best fitted. I have land in this county that is essentially tillage land and it is only worth 25s. the Irish acre—that is about its value. Well, I have other land worth 50s. the Irish acre, and I can grow better crops on my 50s. an acre land than I can on my 25s. an acre land.

30082. If the 25s. an acre land is better land than the 50s. an acre land the whole question is solved?—For tillage, indeed yes. I know Scotch farming, and I studied Scotch farming for two years in Forthshire. I was with a farmer called Lindsay who had in Forthshire 1,600 statute acres for which he paid 16s. an acre. I would not give him 12s. a statute acre for it. That man fattened his cattle with the help of cotton cake, and he also put his cattle indoors in the winter and fed them well.

30083. He was turning the land to the best advantage?—But it is tillage land, the same as there is dairying land, and the same as there is fattening land, and everyone here that hears me knows that it is the case in Ireland that there are essentially tillage land, dairying land, and fattening land.

30084. It is a justification of the present system, and I think it is rather a justification of more than the present system?—I do not justify the present system at all, but I do not think we have had enough tillage farming, but they do not treat their land as simply and merely tillage land, and they do not go through the rotation of tillage to enable it to recover itself. My opinion is that the size of an essentially economic holding would be 25 Irish acres, that is about 42 statute acres.

30085. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Do you say that of the whole of Ireland, or only of the County Clare generally?—Well, of Munster I am really talking, of course. Twenty-five acres of suitable land.

30086. Mr. SUMMERTON.—Which of the six or seven categories?—I cut out fattening land altogether, because fattening farms should not be less than 50 or 100 Irish acres. If possible I should like it to be 500 acres, but it should not be less than 50 or 100. I wish I had some fattening land. I would give £3 an acre. It would suit me down to the ground; because I have no fattening land, and I have plenty of tillage and dairying and storing land.

30087. Anything to keep you going?—No. Any-
thing that I can fatten my cattle on.

30088. Then you want to be saved labour and expense?—I do not want to be saved labour at all. One of my recommendations is that if you want to keep labour in the country you must have 100 acres at least to keep four men. There is the Golden Vale in the County Limerick, of which I wish I owned acres. There is the Meath fattening land and the Killare fattening land, and there is some here in Clare, but not much.

30089. Where?—I think there is some out here belonging to Mr. MacNamara. I think that is here, but I have not seen it. I think it is out towards Limerick way.

30090. Mr. KAVANAGH.—He gave evidence about it this morning. He mentioned it?—And it is essentially fattening land in the Golden Vale suitable to be turned down with the spade?

30091. The Golden Vale?—The Golden Vale—thousands of acres. I don't believe there is an acre of it suitable for tillage.

30092. Twenty-five years ago there was not a single acre of it tilled?—No.

30093. We had evidence to that effect?—Here and there there are fringes.

30094. But Mr. Finucane stated that before he left Ireland for India so many years ago he saw 100,000 acres of the present Golden Vale in tillage?—I remember the Golden Vale myself twenty-five years, and I saw it during twenty-five years, and the average is one to one hundred tilled. Before that time when the people of this country lived on potatoes and milk—and I should be sorry that they should ever live again in the way they did in those days—they might have tilled it with spade work.

30095. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Do you not think that there was a great deal of the land here under tillage, when wheat was sown?—Yes, and it ran out the land. There is wheat land and there is barley land. Wheat land will grow wheat, but not grass so well, and wheat land was in those days always burned, because they had not stock in those days and means to enrich their wheat, and they burned their land, and burnings of eighty years ago are still telling on the land at the present day.

30096. Of course, such a system is most injurious?—Most injurious. They do it in the east of France, where they grow thousands of acres of wheat and have no live stock. They rake up the surface every year and burn it.

30097. How much do you think of the land called grass land in Clare would be of the class that you call tillage land?—I think that would be easily found out.

30098. But I think you are coming to tell us that there is a large proportion of the Clare lands which under the best economic system should be under cultivation?—I should say one kind. Say a man had twenty-five acres, I think that to support him and his family decently and fairly, with ten cows winter and summer, and with that 25 acres properly treated on modern lines, not going to extremes one way or another, certainly 2½ Irish acres ought to keep the right sort of cow if he fed in the winter, and he should keep six acres out of the twenty-five in tillage.

30099. And what would you call tillage?—would you include artificial grasses?—No, I am talking of roots and out crops.

30100. You would not agree that a man could make a decent livelihood with one acre for tillage and the land for three cows?—It is a small holding.

30101. What would you say to twenty-five acres?—I should think about six acres in tillage.

30102. Under cereals?—And oats.

30103. And root crops?—And a root crop, say, 2½ acres, and turnips and mangels; 2½ acres of potatoes, and the balance in oats, which would be, of course, in usual course, a meadow the following year.

30104. And would all the twenty-five acres come under such rotation?—Whatever was necessary of it, and, of course, if it is tillage land the land would be all the better for being gone over every ten or twelve years.

30105. Would you put the whole twenty-five acres through the rotation of crops?—Certainly, if it is all tillage land. If it is all suitable for tillage and can be improved by tillage.

* See Appendix to the Third Report of the Commission (Ct. 2414, 1907), page 113, Question 15882.

June 3, 1903.

Mr. Ernest
Brennan.

40006. But with a rotation of crops it would not follow that a good deal of it would not in the usual course be under grass?—Yes, it would also be under grass, and if a certain margin of the rest was not tillage land there is sufficient pasture for ten cows if they are properly fed in the winter on the tillage, you know, to topdress what land you would have for meadow.

40007. And would your farmer of twenty-five acres stall-feed his cattle?—I am talking of dairy cows.

40008. Mr. BURNHAM.—But then what would he do in the winter—would he stall-feed them in the winter?—I would put them in at night in the winter. I had my own out on the 1st of May this year. I put them out, say, on the 10th of May, and they never come in again till about the 20th of November.

40009. But between November and May?—Always in the house at night, and out in the day.

40010. And would not you have to stall-feed them then?—Well, they give them hay. If you till I say you feed your cattle a great deal better in the winter, but I know lots of men of forty or fifty cows and they have not half an acre of tillage.

40011. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The advantages seem almost obvious of a system of tillage such as you mention, but how would you get the land into the hands of the occupiers?—That is what I should like to know.

40012. Mr. KAVANAGH.—First of all, you are in favour of enlarging small holdings?—I am, sir.

40013. And of giving a man twenty-five acres as a fair economic holding?—I would not like to have less than twenty-five Irish acres.

40014. Then is there land available as far as we know in the County Clare for that purpose?—I think there is a great deal of land available if you take it in this way—how to get the land and how to divide it. Where a landlord or a large farmer, for example, has got land in the County of Limerick or Clare, and where either of the owners neglect their land and do not give sufficient employment to properly treat their land and to use it up to its carrying power, I would take away, with compensation, such land as was not being properly worked with the labour employed. That is my theory. There is a lot of land, and it is a shocking pity, I think, in this county and neighbouring counties not properly worked. They are not carrying up to their full carrying power. They are robbing the country of its taxable capacity.

40015. Do you consider that if the owner or occupier is manifestly not making proper use of the land the public authority ought to step in and compensate him and take the land?—Yes. I think it is a great hardship that a small tenant or labourer or farmer should have to go to America when he was alongside of him, over the fence, a farmer or landlord who has 100 or 200 acres of land, say 100 Irish acres of land, which ought to carry thirty-five or forty cows, not doing so owing to the way the land is treated. It is carrying twenty-five cows, and it is robbing the country of the balance—of the support of ten cows, what it is worth to the country; and the man says: "If I had thirty acres I could live on it and keep ten cows on it." And I think that would make those farmers employ more labour. They will employ as little as ever they can. They are just the same in their treatment of the poor labourer in Germany. They will employ him only as little as they can, to work on off days and turn him out in the winter.

40016. Then you think it should be turned to better account than it now is?—Yes.

40017. Then you are coming to your main point, which I understood to be that, from the nature of the soil, certain large tracts should be under cultivation?—Should be under cultivation, for they are not giving what they should be able to give, and that should be done in rotation, and that can only be efficiently done by small men. Take the case of a man with 100 acres who keeps four men. That man can till twelve to fifteen acres of land with three horses and treat it well. Take the case of a 400-acre man who keeps three men or a herdsmen and two dogs, as I heard a witness say; if most of his land is like tillage land it will return to more. It must be tilled and must be sub-soiled. There is no man who can do that but the small man and his own family. You will keep that man and his eldest son in the country here.

40018. And you would give him a fair inducement

to stay?—Yes, I think he could get a respectable living on it.

40019. Mr. KAVANAGH.—From your own knowledge of the holders of that sort—take the twenty-five-acre man—how much does he till?—I cannot say about Clare, but in parts of the County Limerick, Pallaskeeny and up to New Tipperary, which is land meant for tillage, or King's County, which is barley land, or Kilkenny or Queen's County, the small farmer till a suitable quantity; they go through the land just as I say. They are fond of their land, and they do it from time to time, and they go through that thirty acres in eight years.

40020. Would you say that they do so in the country here?—No; although it is better here than in some parts of the County Limerick.

40021. Suppose you enlarged the holdings to twenty-five acres would they continue to do so?—I think the twenty-five-acre man always treats his land better than any other man.

40022. What is the average holding about here?—It is very hard to say what the average is, because there are lots of holdings here that are very small and there are holdings that run to the mountains and they may be volcanic.

40023. Not the mountainous country but here?—Well, the cultivation of this country might be better. I am speaking more of East Clare.

40024. But it seems to me that the whole county is under grass?—So it is, and so it is in the County Limerick.

40025. And yet the farms, I should say, were very big, I should say fifty would be the average?—It is more than the average, but this country is a very up-and-down country. There is a lot of rocky land that cannot be tilled, and there is a great lot of bogland, and you must discriminate in land.

40026. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You cannot go by acreage?—You cannot go by acreage.

40027. One obvious advantage from the introduction of tillage on the scale you contemplate would be this, that those who have now small uneconomic holdings would have their holdings enlarged to such an extent as to give in Ireland a very convenient unit for the labour of the family?—Of course. Yes.

40028. Suppose we have acquired land which should be split up for the enlargement of holdings, and suppose the holdings were enlarged, now would you not consider that there should be a system of general instruction of a practical kind to teach the occupiers of the enlarged holdings the best class of agriculture on those holdings?—Of course the knowledge would come much faster, and I think the rising generation will see that for themselves.

40029. Would you contemplate some sort of public payments or prize system for well-kept farms?—Anything of that kind that would arouse an interest in the work. But I would rather have a system of Government bonuses.

40030. Would you be in favour of having the boys in the district from their tender years taught the lighter operations of farming?—A technical knowledge of farming, certainly.

40031. So as to give them a basis for tillage employment?—Yes; I think it is absolutely necessary that the son of a farmer who means to be a farmer should learn his profession the same as a doctor learns his.

40032. If instruction of that sort were introduced the tendency to till might be increased?—Undoubtedly it would and to till is a good way, and not only to manure the land but they would go in for other things still that are certain to pay; not merely cash instruction as you get on a dairy farm. Take these large dairy farms in the County Limerick. You simply go out there with your hands in your pockets and look at the girls milking the cows.

40033. Mr. BURNHAM.—Is not that characteristic of all grazing farms?—Yes. I say it is because they won't feed in the winter. How can a man with 100 acres of land feed his cows?

40034. I asked the same question, and my answer to it is because he does not till the land?—Because he does not till the land, and he should till it. Because the large farmer will not employ labour. And I would make him employ it, and if he did not employ it and keep his farm right I would make him do it. That is the only way, to make him do it.

40035. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—On this farm of twenty-five acres there would be employment for the boys and girls?—Yes.

40036. And there would not be any tendency to

encourage notions of idleness?—They would have plenty of work if they tilled. A tillage farmer must work all the year round, and there is no more interesting life in the world than a farmer's life if he takes an interest in it.

40037. I think you were about to explain how the land was to be got for the purpose?—Yes. I think that wherever you see these large farms not properly created you would have to get power to do it. I would inquire why that man does not properly use his farm, and if he does not give any answer or does not use it properly I would offer him a fair price for it. I tried that in thirteen or fourteen cases myself, and created the tenants that I had. And before this evidence thing came there was a great complaint I had to make. I went to some of these people. I knew some of them had been industrious fellows, and now I am glad to say they are all back again. Some of them had gone back before the Estates Commissioners took it into their heads to go in for evicted farms, and some of them had not, and in the case of any of them that had not I proposed that the tenant and I should write to the Estates Commissioners; and we wrote to the Estates Commissioners, and it was very satisfactory both to the tenant and myself, and of course any landlord or any gentleman looking, from their point of view, to a deal in business would expect that a body of men like the Estates Commissioners would be people that you could deal satisfactorily with. But first of all they take ages and ages in correspondence, and many a time they don't answer your letters, and you never come to any finality about anything. That is my experience. I have had to reinstate tenants of my own but on that account, and they cannot get their grant. I would like to see the tenants get a free grant to stock the lands.

40038. Are all your evicted tenants back?—All of mine are back except on Colonel O'Callaghan's estate, and their rents were scaled down to the same level as the rents of the men around.

40039. Before the 1903 Act?—Oh, yes, long before.

40040. What is their status now—former tenants?—No; eleven months' tenants, living on their holdings.

40041. How were the rents fixed?—We fixed them by comparison with the second-term rents of the neighbouring tenants.

40042. They are on the same scale?—They are on the same scale, and they have agreed to it. Of course it would be much better to have them properly in their holdings.

40043. And how long would it be till that?—From the sale of the estate, when it takes place.

40044. If the estate were sold to the tenants would they be put, so far as you are concerned, in exactly the same position as the others?—Exactly the same as far as I am concerned, and buy at the same price. They are all second-term tenants on the estate.

40045. You convey to the Commission that since the Act of 1903, when evicted tenants were being restored there was some delay in the office of the Estates Commissioners?—Yes. I have one or two cases. I give you one case that occurred with me. I take a case in this county of a tenant whose father died very much in arrears. The son was evicted by my father, who was the agent for the estate. I knew the son to be a decent fellow, and he wanted to live in the country and do work, and I went to him and said, "We will try to make a settlement of it for you." The old rent was £35 a year, and I said to him, "I think £24 a year is a fair rent," and he agreed with me, and he said "that is about the value," and I said, "I will reinstate you at £24 a year and you buy at 24 years' purchase as a second-term tenant." That was giving him 4s. off that £24 a year, bringing him down to £20 10s. as the future rent that he would pay, and he was quite satisfied, and very thankful as well. And, of course, he served notice on the Estates Commissioners, so that when he went in he should have a grant to stock the land with, and they sent an Inspector, and the Inspector used to be a tenant's valuer, and I think he is a very good judge of land, and he came down and he said, "I think we will get this man the grant," and he walked the land and he said "I think this is worth only £22 5s. a year; that is my valuation of it." I said, "We have both agreed on the other, and I think it is a fair price," and he said he could not recommend it, and I said "I will consent and take off the £2 15s., making it £22 5s.," and that was fixed, and then I got

a letter from the Commissioners, "You must reinstate this tenant" (this was last October), and I said, "I have reinstated him from the 1st of November." I thought it was unfair that the tenant should be reinstated when he could not make anything till the 1st of May, and I said "Don't go in till the 25th of March," and I told the Commissioners I would make him a second-term tenant from the 25th of March following, and I would leave him as a tenant on the 25th of March. And we confirmed to the rules, and then I was informed that they would only give 25 years' purchase for the holding, and that I would have to throw in bog as well, and I said, "You are not treating me fairly at all, and the tenant will have to go out, and the case will be on you." I said, "This is a warning to me how to deal with you, gentlemen, again." But I was not going to destroy the tenant, and I gave way and knocked 250 off the purchase price which the tenant agreed was a fair purchase price, and it reduced his rent from £25 to £20 5s. And then they said, "We will now give him a grant of £120—£90 for young stock, and the balance for implements"; and he came in on the 25th of March and signed his agreement, and everything was confirmed to. And I said, "When do you think you will be able to stock your land," and on the 8th of May there was a fair at O'Brien's Bridge, and I wrote to the Commissioners to send down a man to purchase him the cattle, as that was the best opportunity he could have for getting seven or eight cows and a horse. I went out the night before, but the Inspector did not come, and there was not a sign of a man down to get the cattle on the 8th of May, and I and the tenant went collectively to the Estates Commissioners, and the last thing was a letter saying that they had been unable to do so. I think it is amazing in the extreme.

40046. Apparently up to the 8th of May the Commissioners looked after the interest of the tenant, but since that they have not done anything?—They have not done anything. That is so. I cannot deal with them again. I will never touch them again. I will not deal with them again if I can help it. I will give you another case, a case of a rent of £200 a year in which they have left me stuck. I went security to the landlord, and the tenant went in, and the rent and the purchase price were all agreed to, and they wrote me a letter which I think I will read out:—

Estates Commissioners' Office,

25 April, 1907.

Minute of Rev. J. T. N. Lee.

Sir,—I am directed by the Estates Commissioners to inform you that they estimate the price of the land in the townlands of Killynahan and Killynahan, containing 290 acres at £20,000. If the owner is prepared to sell at this price, and if the Commissioners can arrange to re-sell the land to suitable persons, they will, in the event of proceedings being instituted under the Irish Land Act of 1903, be prepared to advance that price (which is exclusive of such bonus as may be payable according to law), and they will be prepared to declare the lands to be a separate estate. I am to add that this estimate is furnished solely for the information of the vendor, and is not to be taken as a formal offer to purchase.

40047. Was that tenant reinstated?—I put him in according to their instructions on the 1st of May, and I told the landlord "everything is right, and the rent is £200 odd a year, and will be payable on the 1st of November next"; but the Commissioners say, "We have not bought this estate." Where am I going to get my half-year's rent from? That is now looking at it from the landlord's point of view. There is a case where the landlord through selling the meaning of the Land Act of 1903, re-instated his evicted tenant. We fixed that rent. The Estates Commissioners' Inspector was there, and I was, and there was only £15 between us on that whole valuation of that farm, and we got to a settlement on the spot, and he came and went over it acre by acre, and brought it out the same way, and it was agreed on. And there is the position I am in at present. And how am I to deal with these people again? I am a member of the Reform Association and in favour of their policy all through, and I am only too anxious to obtain land for anyone that I can; but I cannot do it under the machinery that we have got.

June 3, 1905.

Mr. Bennett
Bishop.

June 8, 1907.

Mr. Ernest
Browne.

40048. Mr. KARANAGH.—It is just a little congestion in the office work in Dublin?—I don't know, sir.

40049. I think so!—When you write about the evicted farms, the Secretary answers you. You go to Dublin for an interview, and you meet Mr. Farnham to-day, and if you go up on the same case in a fortnight's time you meet Mr. Wrench, and he refers you to someone else, and then they won't answer your letters for you when you go back. I suppose it is not your duty to deal with the cases?

40050. Mr. O'KELLY.—Say what you have to say about the report!—In the Land Conference Report it was agreed by the members—Messrs. Redmond, O'Brien, Colonel Bouverie, and Lord Dunsany—that it be first at twenty-one and a half and twenty-four and a half years, if you do away with the rates.

40051. Have you read Mr. O'Brien's speech?—A good many of them.

40052. Have you read his speech following the Land Conference Report?—I am sure I have.

40053. Have you ever read where he suggested that the number of years was eighteen?—No; I think not. The Land Conference Report was signed by all of them.

40054. Did you agree with Mr. O'Brien's interpretation that the Land Conference Report was eighteen years' purchase?—I agree with the Report of the Land Conference signed by all the parties, and I think it is eminently fair. I have often heard it suggested, reading the evidence of the Commission, that lands were sold at eighteen and nineteen years' purchase under the Ashbourne Act. That is so easily answered—they were all first term rents then. They paid four and a half per cent. interest. Now it is three and a quarter. Now the tenants are all second term. Besides, before that, in most of the estates which were encumbered, the real owner had no interest. They were sold for the mortgagees, who wanted the money.

40055. Do you mean to say that in the past the estates sold were encumbered properties?—A lot of them.

40056. How many of them?—I could not possibly give the number.

40057. Do you suggest twenty-one and a half years' purchase on first term rents is fair?—Yes.

40058. And you suggest that is the Land Conference term?—It is their price, neither less nor more.

40059. Supposing I suggested to you that eighteen years' purchase represented the Land Conference settlement, would you agree with that settlement?—I would not. In the recommendations of the Land Conference it means to in the pound reduction on first term rents.

40060. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I do not fully follow your point about the interest being different under the two Acts?—It means that the tenant had a greater advantage under the last Act. You could not ask the tenant to pay twenty-seven or twenty-eight years' purchase; neither could the landlord accept much less, because his second term income would be reduced.

40061. The bonus was brought in to make up the difference?—Yes.

40062. There were also certain advantages to the landlord in legal expenses?—Yes.

40063. And the re-purchasing of land?—Yes, but it seldom arises.

40064. Come to a place like Clare; you are aware that in the case of purchases by the Congested Districts Board the rates do not apply?—I suppose not.

Mr. O'KELLY.—They don't shut out impositions.

40065. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Well, Mr. Browne, I think you have found that the owners have experienced no great difficulty in selling to the Congested Districts Board?—I have never dealt with the Congested Districts Board directly, but I have always heard praise of the Board. I have never dealt with them myself. I am personally selling twenty-seven estates. I sold thirteen of these, twenty-one and twenty-four years' purchase is the average price, and I have made out schedules to show how the landlord will stand and also the tenants. Under the twenty-one and twenty-four years the landlord loses from twelve to fifteen

per cent. of his present second term gross income, and the tenant gets 4d. to 6d. in the pound reduction on his second term rental.

40066. In this case you have put before us would you consider that the owner is losing anything?—I think it is fair. I would not be losing more than I would, say, lose in a year on low costs or—

40067. Then your income will be secure?—At 2½ per cent. the twenty-one and twenty-four years' purchase will bring me in very near what it is.

40068. Could you not invest at more than 2½ per cent. quite safely?—My trustee would not invest at more than 2½ per cent.

40069. Would you not think it would be possible to get an investment at four per cent. which would be a better security than Irish Land?—I would prefer Irish Land. I think the prospects will greatly improve. I don't see why they should not.

40070. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is not the landlord getting his salary paid down?—He will not get it into his pocket. It will be invested by his trustee.

40071. Is it not paid to his trustee?—Yes.

40072. What do you mean by his trustee?—They are nearly all life estates—the estates in Ireland. You have mortgage settlements.

40073. All entailed?—Yes. It is all settled property and in the hands of trustees.

40074. Have you any lands in England?—No.

40075. Is it not extraordinary that the lands in England appear to be down in rent compared with Ireland?—Only in two or three counties.

40076. The returns one sees in England seem surprising?—It is about thirty-eight per cent. in the last twenty-five years. In Ireland it is about forty per cent. and now they are getting another twenty on the purchase.

40077. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—When one compares about the same class of soil?—Because they are English acres.

40078. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are the official returns Irish acres?—They are not. I studied dairy farming in Surrey and tillage in Fife. They pay a higher acreable rent than we do.

40079. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—One would expect they should, because in Ireland the tenant has a joint interest in the soil?—If they build their houses and drain their lands they have the value of their improvements in their holdings, but the other is a sentimental value.

40080. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What is the landlord's interest? Is it not sentimental?—If you put £20,000 in the Incorporated Estates Court for a property, would that be sentimental interest?

40081. You are sufficiently acquainted with the history of Ireland. Have you heard of the Plantations?—That is past history. You have to discriminate.

40082. Where do you draw the line?—I take any country, say England, where the Domes had conquered England and there were the Normans and Saxons. Are you going to bring them in and restate them?

40083. That does not come down so far as the 17th century?—None are alive now.

40084. Mr. KARANAGH.—Is there any other point?—No.

40085. Mr. O'KELLY.—I can quite see that you are desirous of having the evils of congestion removed?—Certainly, and I think it can be done.

40086. It is a source of a great deal of discontent in this country?—Undoubtedly.

40087. Suppose you found it impossible to achieve that result by voluntary sale, would you apply compulsion?—I have thought that compulsion is a terrible thing. There is sentiment in ownership too.

40088. Land is taken compulsively for other purposes?—You have taken a lot of the rights of landlords, a great lot of the things have gone, including control over their own property. If you take it by compulsion you will have to take it fairly. You must give the average price.

40089. Conditionally that all things are equal and the price equitable and fair?—I don't see why a man should object to selling his property at a fair price.

40090. Mr. KARANAGH.—I think you said that a man who did not make use of his land that it should be taken from him?—Yes, for his own good and the good of his country he should treat it properly.

The Commission adjourned.

EIGHTIETH PUBLIC SITTING.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH, 1907

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.

In the Market House, Kilmash, County Clare.

Present:—WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., B.A. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; CONOR O'KEEFE, Esq., M.P.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

Rev. P. GILLEN examined.

June 5, 1907.

Rev. P. Gilgen.

40091. Mr. KAVANAGH (in the Chair).—You are nominated by the Kilmash Rural District Council and Poor Law Board to give evidence?—Yes.

40092. Will you kindly bring before the Commission the statement you wish to make?—Yes, sir. By the Act of 1891, under which the Congested Districts Board was established, it was declared to be necessary, in order that a district or an electoral division be declared congested, not only that the valuation per head of the population of an electoral division be below £1 10s., but that the valuation per head of one-fifth of the total population of the county should be less than £1 10s. The result of this was that the County Clare, whose small occupiers and fishermen stood in such need of the fostering care of the Congested Districts Board, have never got any assistance from the Board, for, unfortunately for Clare, although there were in 1891 several electoral divisions in which the valuation per head was under 30s., the population of these electoral divisions did not reach twenty per cent. of the population of the county. I know an electoral division where the decrease in population has been twenty per cent., another where the decrease has been fifteen per cent. in ten years.

40093. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is that an electoral district?—Yes, they are both in my own parish. There are still in West Clare many electoral divisions where the valuation per head of the population is below 30s. per head. I am glad that at long last the Government has come to recognize that there are "areas outside the districts now scheduled as congested that require to be dealt with as congested." I hope to be able to satisfy the members of this Commission that West Clare is one of the "areas" that should be scheduled as congested, and that some of its population, now crowded in uneconomic holdings, should be transferred to the ranches, from which the people have been driven to make room for cattle.

40094. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have you any suggestions to make?—I will make suggestions further on.

40095. An alteration of the definition of congested districts, do you mean?—As to that I have heard several definitions. For instance, take Kilmash Electoral Division. There are 200 people whose valuation is £4 and under, there are 115 from £4 to £10, and 158 whose valuation is over £10. Well, if you take the whole of these the valuation would be more than 30s. per head of the electoral division. I should say, at all events, wherever you have fifty per cent. of the holdings of the people at a valuation of less than 30s. per head that that ought to be declared congested. I put that rather high. I should not be surprised if 20s. per head would not be sufficient.

40096. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In 1891 there were four electoral divisions in Kilmash district with the valuation under 30s.?—And they are there still. There was more people there then. The population has fallen 11·2 per cent. since.

40097. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Then, it is not the valuation you find fault with: it is the amount of population?—It is the fact that in order to have the district scheduled as congested it is necessary that one-fifth of the entire county should be congested. If you take Clare, we have some of the biggest ranches outside

perhaps Roscommon, and wherever you have numbers of these ranches, no matter how dense the population may be in certain parts, and where it is easy to get one-fifth of the population under 30s., it is almost surmountable, where there are large ranches, to have the whole of the county at 30s. per head.

40098. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Twenty per cent. of the population reside in districts of this class?—Yes.

40099. Mr. KAVANAGH.—County Clare, originally, was not scheduled at all?—No, portion of it got scheduled by accident.

40100. It was due to the alterations in the boundary of the county?—Yes, it was.

40101. When the Local Government Act was passed portion of the County Galway which had been scheduled as congested, and which adjoined the boundary of Clare, was transferred to the County Clare, and that is the only portion scheduled?—Yes.

40102. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Thus anomaly that you point out arises from the definition in the Act of Parliament?—Yes.

40103. Have you considered what would be a desirable amendment of that?—I have considered that if you are to relieve congestion. Congestion is quite as bad in a county where there are not ten per cent. of the people who would not be under 30s., quite as bad as in Donagall and Mayo, where there may be fifty per cent. of them, because a man is poor, wherever he is, if he is in a £4 holding.

40104. Then, as to the practical question whether a definition could be framed that would meet all cases?—As far as I am concerned, what I should say is this, that in any county where you have an electoral division in which fifty per cent. of the population have a valuation of not more than 30s. per head I would declare that congested. I pass the county altogether as the area, and I take the electoral division. If I get an electoral division—I do not care where—where fifty per cent. of that division does not exceed 30s. per head of the population I would declare that congested.

40105. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In two ways you would broaden the definition. You would get rid of the county restriction, and you would be content to look to fifty per cent. of the population?—Yes.

40106. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do you know a disadvantage that would accrue to anybody by such an arrangement?—No.

40107. It would be an advantage?—To the small holders.

40108. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What would you think of leaving to the body for relieving congestion the duty of varying the areas wherever the necessity arises?—If it is a body that I have confidence in, such as the Congested Districts Board, I would leave it to them.

40109. And what is your conclusion? That the body, on the whole, should have some general powers?—Yes, my lord. Now, the great object I think that this Commission ought to have, and that every right-thinking man should strive for, is to try, and save the Irish people from extinction, and unless something is done in places like Clare there is no question we are in the high way to be as scarce as the red Indian

40108. on the shores of Manhattan. In proof of that I may state that in 1851 Clare had a population of 286,523, in 1861 its population was only 112,150; and, seeing that its young men and young women are emigrating at the rate of 1,500 each year, Clare has to-day not many more than 100,000 of a population, having lost since 1851 by emigration 143,649 persons. These statistics alone should be sufficient to convince the members of the Commission and all who take an interest in the Irish people that if Clare is to be saved from becoming a desert a radical remedy must be applied, and applied quickly.

40109. Your point applies, if we go back, not to the famine years, but to 1851!—Yes, from that date to this we are decreasing steadily, and even to-day, when we are told we are so prosperous and that our banks and post offices have more money than ever before, we are losing the population and the flower of the land at the rate of 1,500 each year.

40110. Without going back to the famine years at all, you have it in the census of 1851 that there were then more than twice as many people in Clare than it has at present!—Yes, nearly one-half as many as Clare has at present.

40111. Mr. KAVANAGH.—How do you think agricultural districts as congested would stop that?—I will come to that in a minute. I am aware that some of our doctrinaire economists attribute Irish emigration to Celtic restlessness, to temperament, to want of amusement, to everything except to the true cause. These gentlemen have never had the experience of living in a one-room or in a two-room cabin, as a member of a family of ten, and on a family budget of some £20 a year. If they had they would be, I venture to say, in as much a hurry to seek a means of livelihood in America as the 1,500 Clare boys and girls that yearly rush to the emigrant ship. What prospect of anything but misery have these emigrants if they stay in Ireland? Give them farms on which they can maintain a family, or give them employment, and you will soon put a stop to emigration. I have been intimately acquainted with hundreds of emigrants, and I do not recollect that it was possible for three per cent. of them to have remained at home with a reasonable prospect of a livelihood.

40112. Mr. STURTEVANT.—How is this emigration going on at present—is it by families or by individuals?—That is the saddest part of it. If it were by families there would be some hope for the country. Take a family of six, seven, or eight on a holding under 54 valuation, and here is what happens. There is some one of them that is not much good, either a boy or a girl, and he or she is sure to be kept at home. The others, those boys and girls, the flower of the land, get a ticket from somebody in America, or buy one, in ones or twos. The oldest goes to America, and after a time he or she buys a passage for the second eldest. Then they both combine and bring out the third eldest, and the old people and the infirm are left at home—the cripples and the paralytics—and the result is, they are good for nothing. Another result was that in the next parish to my own locality is increasing to an alarming extent. People say it is ardent spirits and things of that kind. It is nothing of the sort. It is the least fitted of the population remaining at home.

40113. Is it more prevalent—this individual emigration—now than it was before the famine?—At the famine they had free passages and they had to emigrate as men, but since 1851 it is individual emigration.

40114. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You say 1,500 Clare boys and girls leave annually. That would be one-eighth of the total number of emigrants from Ireland?—Oh, no, it would not. The total number of emigrants from Ireland is about 35,000.

40115. A year!—Yes, my lord. It is one-fifth of our population.

I ought to have said Munster.

40116. Mr. STURTEVANT.—You would always look for emigration to a small extent!—Oh, yes.

40117. It is emigration that is lowering the population of the country!—That is not emigration; it is blood-letting.

40118. And the whole population is decreasing steadily!—Yes, seeing we have lost 143,649 persons in fifty-seven years out of a population of 200,000, whilst here in Clare, with healthy air and big

families, the population would have been tripled in the same time but for emigration.

40119. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You would not have the least objection to emigration from Clare if the Clare population were kept up to the numbers which the county could reasonably support?—Oh, no.

40120. But you do object to emigration which takes away in fifty years more than half the population!—I not only object to it, but I very strongly object to nearly-pampered ruralities that might keep a class of people in employment. I want something that would stay emigration. With all due respect, I think that is what you ought to address yourselves to, that if we have land or means to keep people at home, you ought to put your finger on that remedy and say: "This country is going to ruin, and the only thing to stop that ruin is so and so."

An inspired Apostle has warned us of the holiness of the charity which tells a "naked destitute brother to be warmed and killed, yet gives not the things which are needful to the body." Equally hollow is the appeal of those who beg of our naked and destitute emigrants to "remain at home," yet "give them not these things which are needful to the body."

This dreadful heremitage is destroying the lifeblood of Ireland away, and is leaving her weakened and debilitated—bankrupt and paupered—

—with the parasites of workhouses increasing while the population is decreasing. I will illustrate my contention by the case of the Kilrush Union.

I could do so equally well by the case of the Ennisymon Union. The valuation of the Kilrush Union is £23,807, the population of the Union in 1850 was 28,734; the valuation per head of the population is little more than £1 7½, while in the following six electoral divisions the valuation per head is at or under £1 12s., viz., Doonbeg, Dromedilly, Keadaholey, Kilmogh, Cahersmully, Glencorro, and these divisions are by no means the poorest electoral divisions of the Kilrush Union.

In some of the electoral divisions the valuation is inordinately high, because of the high state of cultivation that existed in them at the time the valuation was made, when "every rood of ground maintained its man," and also because while the price of the corn crops, which these lands then yielded in great abundance, was relatively high, the cost of producing them was nothing—because labour of the very best kind had then very little value. To illustrate that, I take my own parish.

We suffer from that high valuation in two ways. When the Commissioners came along—they know very little about land, I am sorry to say—they go to the valuation. If they find the rent is under the valuation they at once rush to the conclusion that the fellow has his land for nothing, and accordingly they give no reduction.

On the other hand they come to a district where there has been improvement of the land and the valuation is very low—no matter how low the rent is they pay it down to the valuation. In 1847 and 1848 the land in my parish was very good for corn-growing—I do not know whether it is true of other parts of Ireland, but it is true of West Clare that the lands grow twice as much then as they will grow now.

Suppose the land would grow a certain number of barrels of oats or wheat to-day, it would grow twice as much then. Why? Because they then tilled with the spade. There was no ploughing. Ploughing nowadays is just wasting. The people burned the land and thereby ruined it, while the valuation remained the same the whole time. When you consider a district of that kind, where the poor-rate is about 4s. 6d. in the pound, what between poor rate, and railway rate, and the road rate, some of these people are paying 12s. and 14s. and 15s. per acre for land that positively in other parts of Ireland would be let for 7s. or 6s. Then when it comes to purchase, you point out to the landlord that the land is worth nothing. He says, "Woe not the Commissioners on it?" as if the Commission man was infallible. The result is very disastrous to the poor people.

40121. Mr. STURTEVANT.—Your position is that the valuation that was fixed at that time is the basis in the mind of the Commissioner from which he is to work!—Yes.

40122. And that that may have been fixed arbitrarily for purposes that are not now so apparent?—Yes. There was a little estate sold in my parish some years ago. During the negotiations the agent

used this argument to me: "Why, their rents are more than thirty per cent. under the valuation, and they have not come into court, because if they did the rents would be raised." Even there the rents were too high, seeing that in a small estate of £350 a year there were £350 of arrears. If I got one of those farms to-morrow at half the purchase money, I would rather a good deal pay 30s. an acre for land than get it for nothing.

40122. That sounds rather paradoxical!—Because I say that the land got burned in the famine years, and any land that got burned and taken away has to be replaced in some way before it is workable.

40123. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Spade labour has disappeared!—Yes.

40124. And consequently the land is not as well tilled as before?—Yes, they exhausted the farms.

40125. And as the result of the famine, to try and manure the land they burned it?—Yes.

40126. You call attention to this fact, that in times before the famine, at all events, there was an abundance of cheap labour!—Yes.

40127. It is difficult to get labour of any kind now!—It is nearly impossible, my lord. And the third cause of the deterioration in this. I was talking to a man who has really had land, and I said, "That is miserable land you have." "Well," he said, "my father took eleven crops of oats out of that field and he never manured it."

40128. Mr. KAVANAGH.—One crop after another!—Yes.

40129. It left that land very bad!—Bad from that day to this, and bad for ever, until you turn round and put in some other soil. If the Commissioners came on that land to-morrow, I have not the slightest doubt they would tell anyone that it is very good land. I wish to submit to the Commission some further facts in connection with the Kilrush Union. In Kilroe Electoral Division the number of rated occupiers of £4 and under is 269; over £4 and under £10, 114, while those over £10 are only 165. Killard Division occupies under £4, 31; under £10, 31; over £10, 87. Clonsilla Electoral Division, under £4, 34; between £4 and £10, 51. Kilmarney Electoral Division, under £4, 50; between £4 and £10, 63. Killybeggs Electoral Division, under £4, 45; between £4 and £10, 61; over £10, 68. Moyarra Electoral Division, under £4, 76; between £4 and £10, 37; over £10, 41. Rahona Electoral Division, under £4, 76; between £4 and £10, 63.

40130. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I think we have all these statistics here in the return before us?—That would show that there are few electoral divisions in the Kilrush Union that might not reasonably and fairly be declared congested, and would be so if what I suggest were brought about, that where 50 per cent. of the population lived in holdings the rateable value of which was not more than 8s. per head, the district should be declared congested. From this it can be seen that there are in the Kilrush Union a vast number of uneconomic holdings, there are few employers of labour, and there are practically no industries, and most necessarily be considerable congestion—and so, I am sorry to say, there is. Of course, where you have a man living in a £4 holding, for that matter in a £10 holding, all these holdings are uneconomic, because they will not pay for the labour spent on them, you cannot rear a family on them. What will, however, give the best indication of the poverty of the Kilrush Union is the proportion the number of persons relieved bears to the entire population. Looking at the pages of Thorne's Almanac, I find that in 1902—the best year for which the figures are available to me (I am sure the figures for that year differ very little, if at all, from the figures for the year 1905)—the number of persons relieved, indoors and outdoors, in the Kilrush Union was 3,042—indoor, 1,328; outdoor, 1,704—so that one person out of every nine in the Kilrush Union received relief of some kind. The Kilrush Poor Law Board expends yearly on outdoor relief £2,350, a sum equal to 1s. 2d. in the pound on the valuation; while the total expenditure on poor relief in the Kilrush Union amounts to 3s. 1½d. is the valuation.

40131. Mr. SWEENEY.—Is the number receiving poor relief increasing?—Well, considering that the population is decreasing, the number relatively is increasing, but it is in about the same state as far as actual numbers for the past ten years. What I have said of Kilrush may be said with little variation of

the Ennistymore Union, in which the valuation per head is about £2, where the poor rate is equally high as in Kilrush, and where there are two electoral divisions, Glenties and Fermanagh, where the valuation is under £1 10s. per head of the population. In May electoral division of the Ennistymore Union there are 123 ratings under £4, and 126 between £4 and £10. In Malvern Malley, including houses in the town, there are 128 under £4, and 125 between £4 and £10. In Ballinacorney, 173 under £4, and 103 between £4 and £10. The electoral division of Killybeggs is rather remarkable. There are 125 ratings under £4, and 71 under £10; while Mr. McNamara has some 900 acres of land in the neighbourhood. I am very glad to see Mr. McNamara is ready to sell all that land to anybody who will buy it for the purpose of having congestion relieved.

40132. It is all a question of price with him!—Well, I think when people want a thing they ought to give a reasonable price. Of the 149 ratings in Killybeggs, 59 ratings are under £4, and 83 ratings between £4 and £10. In Ballina, out of 200 ratings, 51 of them are under £4, and 80 of them under £10. In Ballagh there are only 136 ratings—47 of them are under £4, and 71 of them between £4 and £10. The valuation of the entire electoral division is only 2887 13s. The valuation of Glenties is £1,168 16s. There are 125 ratings—31 under £4, and 60 between £4 and £10. With these facts concerning the unions of Kilrush and Ennistymore before us, does it not seem intelligible that West Clare was not scheduled as congested under the Act of 1880, even although 50 per cent. of the population of the County Clare were not rated at less than 8s. per head? It would be tedious to mention all the facts I had not been aware that in 1880 County Clare was misapprehended by a gentleman whose principal anxiety was about Muckishland, and who was far more concerned about King Loughgola and his subjects than he was about the people of West Clare. The present Commission will, it is to be hoped, do what is in its power to repair the past. There are two classes of persons whose condition is in urgent need of improvement—fishermen and farmers under £10 valuation. I will refer to the fishermen first, they are the less important and the less numerous. The number of fishermen on the coast of Clare is roughly about 300, many of them have other means of livelihood—they are small farmers or labourers, and they also collect seaweed, which they dry and sell or current into kelp, while their womenfolk save and sell Carrageen moss. In this connection I would mention what is a great hardship, viz., most of those who collect seaweed have to give a "royalty" of from one-third to one-half to the owners of the strand where the weed is collected. They go out endangering their lives, either on foot or on cam—sometimes the horses are swimming, and I have even seen them up to their armpits dragging it in, and because they are supposed to trespass on somebody's land they have to pay the royalty. When that weed is dried—it used to be that two casks were made of the dried weed—the owner of the beach takes one cask and the man who had all the labour takes the other. Things have improved slightly in regard to that.

40133. Has the legality of that ever been tested?—It is like this. You need not let anybody go into the strand through your land.

40134. If it is enclosed?—It is not enclosed. The owner claims the foreshore up to highwater mark.

40135. If he has a charter for it?—I need not tell you these poor people could not afford to contest the claim. It would cost a good bit of money to find out that charter.

40136. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What you describe is the existing custom?—It is, on most of the strand. There are some of them, called "free" strands, where a man is at liberty to go out and take what he can get.

40137. Mr. SWEENEY.—What makes them free?—Just what you have said, I think. They were not able to show their charter.

40138. As a general principle the foreshore belongs to the Crown, except where there is a charter saying that the Crown gave it away?—That is the law, but against that there is this, that the landlord has custom for perhaps 200 years. He establishes a right and puts the onus upon you to disprove it.

40139. There is no prescription against the Crown?—I know that.

June 5, 1907.

-Rev. P. Glynn.

40140. Mr. KAVANAGH.—It is not a question of fisheries, but bringing the help across a peninsula's land is—No, it is a question of the fisheries rather than that. I know the case of a gentleman, in this town, a Mr. Brew. We had a big fight over that business. I was in this parish, and we knocked him down to one-third instead of one-half. We did not trespass in the smallest degree on his land. There was a road going into the fisheries.

40141. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—There is drift wood and weed which is cut out at sea. If they could cut it at sea and escape to any other port in their boats they would be all right?—Oh, yes.

40142. They go for the drift wood, and that they cannot take without paying a royalty?—Not without paying a royalty. The primitive curragh, or canoe, is the only fishing boat on the coast of Clare, with the exception of one nobby at Carrigaholt. It is difficult to say how the condition of the Clare fishermen can be improved. A few landing places are required. A small pier at Ballingahine, for which the Agricultural Department has committed to give a grant and the County Council a grant of a like amount. At the Golden-Moore, between Killybeg and Carrigaholt, there is a narrow and dangerous creek, a very treacherous landing place. The Agricultural Department promised a free grant to improve this creek about six years ago, but since then nothing has been done. In connection with that I would wish to say that after I saw a communication that was sent to the County Council, where the Department promised to give a free grant for this particular place, because it was very dangerous, I wrote to the Department thanking them and trying to keep them to their word about it, and I got a reply saying they would carry out that representation in connection with the other landing places in Clare. Since then they have done absolutely nothing, and they have denied that they ever made any free grant at all, though I have it down in black and white that they did. Besides providing the fishermen with free dangerous landing places, I do not know that much can be done to improve the fishing. I do not believe they would attempt deep sea fishing, even if provided with huge boats. Of course, I do not know that of my own knowledge. I was told in Liscannor last year—because I made it my business to inquire—that Sir Francis Brady offered them a deep-sea fishing boat, and they would not go out, but I think if the young fellows were trained they would go out.

40143. Mr. KAVANAGH.—They are not trained at present?—No. It seems extraordinary that our fishermen never got even a net since the Congested Districts Board was established, while the fishermen of Aran and Galway and all round the coast have been trained and outfitted.

40144. And your fishermen have not?—No.

40145. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Did they apply for boats?—I applied for a boat for Carrigaholt last year, and did not get it; but four fellows borrowed money themselves and bought one, and I am sorry they have not been very successful. They paid £140 for a nobby and nets.

40146. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do they fish from Carrigaholt?—Yes.

40147. Do they go out far?—Yes; three men went down to Fenit and fished fifty or sixty miles beyond the coast.

40148. What were they fishing for?—Mackerel. One night they had 3,000 mackerel, but they were obliged to sell them at 4s. a hundred.

40149. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—How long is it since they got their boat?—About fifteen months.

40150. It would be a great thing, I would suggest, to get them to preserve?—I think they will.

40151. One does not know in the fishing business when a prosperous season sets in?—There is one way they lose in fishing—I am talking of fishing round the Clare coast—and it is the middleman who gains. When they come in they sell the fish for 4s. or 4s. a hundred. The middleman holds them on and sends them to ASKEW, and often sells that very fish at 12s. and 13s. and 14s. a hundred.

40152. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The middleman is the local buyer?—Yes. I think if there were some small curing stations established where these people could cure their fish, or if they were helped by some means that would enable them to hold the fish for a rise in the market.

40153. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would it also occur to you if there was a considerable development in the fishery that you might expect where the take was large that a number of buyers would come and compete for the fish?—Naturally. They used to come to the Clare coast some years ago when there was large takes.

40154. Along the coast of the scheduled area it is not unusual to have been competition at an auction for the fish?—Sometimes you will have only one man to buy from you, and you must take the money he offers or nothing.

40155. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You have a railway behind you?—You have, but I think if you put fish into that railway it would be pretty old before it got to the end of it. There would also be delay in unloading the fish from the narrow to the broad gauge. To improve their condition I would suggest that each fisherman be provided with a few acres of land, say four or five, near his dwelling, on which he could keep a cow and sow potatoes and vegetables. Most of them can get suitable houses built under the provisions of the Labourers Act. There is great need of inclement habits of thrift and economy and sobriety amongst them. Of course if a man has a bad habit and lives in miserable surroundings it is really very hard to expect thrift from him. If you improve their condition thrift would follow, I think. I take Ballingahine. There are a lot of wretched cabins there, and they pay 24 an acre to Mr. McNamara for a little plot of land on which to sow potatoes. Mr. McNamara has on that very spot adjacent one place of 104 acres, another of 135 acres, and others of 143 acres, 233 acres, 175 acres, and 199 acres. Those poor people have to pay him at the rate of 24 an acre to sow plots of cabbage and potatoes.

40156. It is so contrary?—Yes. You take it for a season. You have no claim to it after a season.

40157. They have no plots of land attached to their houses?—No.

40158. Mr. KAVANAGH.—I think Mr. McNamara expressed his willingness to sell?—Yes.

Mr. O'KEEFE.—Mr. McNamara said if the landlords were properly approached they would be prepared to enlarge their holdings. I do not think he expressed their willingness to sell.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—I gathered he would be inclined to sell part.

Mr. O'KEEFE.—Yes, according to the procedure I have indicated.

40159. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You say, Father Glynn, it would be desirable these men should have four or five acres?—I think every poor man of that kind ought to have enough land for a cow to give milk for his children.

40160. You would like to provide for a chest that would scarcely be fishermen all the year round?—Yes.

40161. You would like to provide a second class of occupation for them?—Yes.

40162. If they were fishermen all the year round a smaller grant of land would be required?—Yes.

40163. Under the Labourers Act it would be possible to get an acre for them?—Yes.

40164. And a good home?—Yes.

40165. That could be taken compulsorily?—Yes.

40166. Don't you think that would be a good thing to do, unless the owner was willing?—Certainly. I think every fisherman who works ought to get an acre.

40167. Your idea would be that wherever land is assigned to a family it should be sufficient for milk and vegetables?—Yes.

40168. But short of that it would be a great improvement for these people if they had a nice little dwelling and plot?—Yes.

40169. Does the West Clare Railway really touch at any point a safe harbour of refuge for fishing boats?—There is Lahinch, only two miles from Liscannor.

40170. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You would not call that a safe harbour?—Liscannor is a safe harbour.

40171. I thought you said Lahinch?—Liscannor. It is only two miles distant from Lahinch.

40172. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Going further south, is there any other?—The only other would be Kilrush—in this way that at Kilrush there is traffic with Limerick by boat. You could transfer your fish to the boat and get it sent to Limerick.

40173. Would you think that some harbour of refuge would be required between Kilrush and Liscannor?—There is a harbour, but I do not know

whether it is a safe place for fishing boats. There is a place at Sealhead near the railway station at quality. There is a pier there, but I do not know that it is safe. It might be made safe at very little expenditure.

40172. Quality gives evidence of the existence of a steady fishing population. Do you not think it would be possible to encourage the people to follow the fish wherever they are?—I do not know that you could do that with the old fellows. These people have spent their lives in canoe, and it would be difficult to get them to go far out to sea. You might do something with the young people. As to the second class, the small farmer class is the class whose condition most badly calls for amelioration—it is the class which supplies the great majority of emigrants. In Clare 125-3 per cent. of the holdings are under £10 valuation, and in West Clare the percentage of the holdings under £20 valuation cannot be, in my opinion, much less than seventy per cent. of the entire number of agricultural holdings. The occupation of these small holdings rear their children for the American market, and the earnings of these children supplement the profits of the little holdings and enable the parents to maintain themselves and pay rent, &c. As I have said already, it is quite impossible for people living in many of these miserable holdings to maintain themselves without some means of support. Their really standing means is the American money. If that were stopped I fancy they would almost automatically cease to be paid. The cruel thing is that, side by side with these miserable economic holdings, or at a distance of twenty or thirty miles of them, there are ranches of hundreds of acres with no human habitation except that of a herd. If the owners of these ranches added to the wealth of the community, or even prospered themselves on the profits of ranching, there may be some amelioration of grounds for not at once taking measures to reduce congestion and for not taking steps to stop the hemorrhage that is draining away the life blood of the country. But it is notorious that the grazier gives no employment, that ranches in the neighbourhood of a town or village means ruin and decay for that town or village. Bullocks and sheep don't wear boots and clothes, neither do they eat bread, and it is pretty well known also—the graziers themselves are continually saying so—that grazing does not pay. Yet no sooner does a grazier break down—and the event is of rather common occurrence—than a shopkeeper, a professional man, or a returned American or Australian tries his luck at grazing, and spend upon bullocks and sheep the money they have made in their shops or professions. The obvious duty of the State then is to take up (1) all grazing lands now in the occupation of the workers; (2) the surplus lands—after the occupier himself is left a holding of the estimated value of £200.

40173. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You put it rather high?—I put it very high—too high, because I think £200 would be quite sufficient, but I want to be specially generous, so that there could be no objection to what I have said. In Clare this would mean that suffice to give sufficient land to raise the holdings of all persons under £10 valuation to £15. The valuation of land in owners' occupation in Clare is £22,500. The valuation above £200 and not exceeding £200 is £15,787. The valuation of holdings above £200 is £30,285. That works out in this way. If you leave each of these holdings of the valuation of £200 there would be land of a valuation of £17,785 available for distribution. So that there would be that land valued at £40,000 for distribution in Clare which would be sufficient to bring all holdings under £10 up to that standard. That works out at £43,000 worth of land in County Clare, and you would require only lands of the valuation of £40,000 to bring the economic holdings up to the £10 valuation.

40174. Mr. KATZBERG.—Is all the land you have referred to suitable for enlargement—is there no mountain or bog?—I have no doubt that a great deal of it is available. There are a good many crags, but not so much mountain. But, working all the thing as I have done, you would have a margin of £15,000 for waste lands of the kind that may not be suitable, and I certainly believe that there is somewhere in the neighbourhood of £40,000 valuation of land available for migration purposes if the suggestions that I take the liberty of making were carried out.

40175. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Even the crags would be useful?—They would.

40176. But not for tillage?—No, but the crags would be more useful for men living in the neighbourhood on economic holdings. You have a man, say, with a valuation of £5 who has a little bit of a farm in the neighbourhood of a crag, and if he got a good slice of crag that he could graze sheep and young cattle on it would make a very comfortable man of him. Another thing I wish to say is this. We start with the fact that there is land to the valuation of £43,000 available for migration purposes in Clare. You would not require anything like the £40,000 worth to raise the holdings to an economic standard. I will show you how. There are numbers of persons who have holdings under £10 valuation who are unsuitable for migration purposes. I would not migrate those who I did not think would be likely to prosper, and in every department you have men-do-wells and people who would not prosper anywhere.

40177. And there are some who would not prosper?—Certainly, but even among those who would go there are some whom it would be undesirable to remove. Then, as regards fishermen, they are put down as the holders of economic holdings, and so they are; but I would not migrate them. Of course I would give them a little bit of land with their houses, as I have said, three or four acres. Then there are small shopkeepers, carpenters, and people of that kind, who have small holdings, and I would not migrate those.

40178. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—They have already a means of living?—They have.

40179. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Then there would be the addition of the holdings that would be vacated?—Just so. Some people say, "Why make them all one standard?" I would not do that at all. First of all there is quite a large number of people to start with, with holdings of £200 valuation. That is an enormous tract of land to leave to any individual, especially to a Clare farmer, who does not till and gives no employment. I certainly think that no farmer who does not give employment and till a considerable portion of his land, say one-fifth or one-sixth or one-seventh, according to some standard that is laid down, should be allowed to have land valued for more than £200. Of course if a man is a large farmer and gives large employment of labour, he is as useful to the community as any man could be, and he helps the people to live.

40180. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You think that the body having charge of the relief of congestion should have large powers and a free hand?—I think it should have absolute powers. If it has not, the process of relieving congestion in bits and scraps will only ruin everything, because the result will be that graziers, when they see what is coming, will strip the land among their own friends and defeat the object of the law. As regards the difficulty of inducing persons who live on economic holdings to migrate, in my opinion, so difficult exists, except in the cases of old and unenterprising farmers, or in the case of some few persons who for one reason or another are tolerably comfortable on a farm of less than £10 valuation. Many small occupiers would be, I think, reluctant to migrate to another county, but where, as in the case of Clare, there is plenty of good land for the landless in the county itself, very few of the small occupiers, whom it would be desirable to migrate, would refuse.

40181. Mr. KATZBERG.—Would there be any disinclination to remove from one end to the other?—I don't think there would be.

40182. Would there be any disinclination on the part of those among whom they go to welcome them?—I certainly would improve the conditions of the land people before any outsider, but if that was done I don't believe they would object, or at all events they would not object in a way that could not be got over. I would supply land for the landless in the immediate neighbourhood first. After doing that I would bring in outsiders from the same county, and if I had sufficient land after that, I would bring them in from another county.

40183. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—At what stage would the sale of tenements in the county have a claim?—After providing for men of £15 and under.

40184. But you would put congested at a distance before the sale of tenements in the vicinity?—I would, certainly, because our first object is to try to relieve congestion. A tenant on a £20 holding who has three acres is not a congest, though he has a son who

Jan 5, 1907.

Rev. F. Glynn.

June 5, 1907.

Rev. P. Glynn.

would be very glad to get a farm. I would not give them farms until I had provided for the congests first.

40185. Then this is the order in which you would take them: congests in the vicinity first, congests from a distance next, to a reasonable extent, and then, if there is any surplus land left, you would give it to the sons of farmers?—Yes.

40186. Mr. O'CONNOR.—In last analysis, would that mean that sons of farmers would be shut out altogether?—Are not they shut out at present by the grazier; and again, the daughters are shut out, whereas the daughters could marry congests who would get the land, and in this way be saved from emigration.

40187. Suppose that we say that the congests would have the first claim on the land so acquired, and that after three years that the sons of tenants should have the second claim, don't you think you would have exhausted all that land before you would have exhausted the congests?—No, I don't think so at all; as I have shown, so far as the County Clare is concerned.

40188. But I presume that after satisfying the claims of local congests, you would give the first claim on the lands left to congests from another county?—No. I did not deal with the other county. I think that the question his lordship asked, would I deal with local congests first; that is, those in the vicinity. I said, yes. Then he asked me would I bring in congests from a distance, and I said, yes. By congests from a distance, I meant those within the county. I certainly do think that if there are desirable sons of farmers in the neighbourhood, I would give them the preference before bringing in congests from another county.

40189. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Your view is, that considering the number of congests in Clare, it would be very good of Clare to provide for its own congests?—Yes.

40190. That would be a considerable demand on the available grass land?—Yes.

40191. After that the sons of Clare tenants would have a look in?—Yes.

40192. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have you ever thought out a scheme of common grazing for these unconmunicable holders: suppose there is a large ranch in the middle of a district of unconmunicable holdings, what would you say to giving common grazing? You would do away with the expense of moving these people and building new houses and fencing and sleeping and all that?—I am afraid that it would not be practicable—that it would lead to a great deal of litigation and trouble.

40193. It is very prevalent in Scotland, I understand, in the Crofters district?—Possibly it would be a good thing. There is a farm which we contemplated buying. We were dealing with the landlord recently, and the sale fell through. It would be forty acres of good land that would be a great accommodation to small people around the place. I was considering if we bought it, what would be the best thing to do with it; should we have common grazing, as you suggest, or divide it into small holdings; if you divide it into small holdings a great deal of it would be eaten up by the fences. I would approve of what you suggest if I had sufficient confidence that the people would keep from litigation and quarrelling. But those small people are very tenacious of their imaginary or real rights, and if law got up once, I am afraid that the improvement of their holdings would not pay the expenses of law.

40194. In sheep-grazing rights, do you find that there is litigation?—I do not. There is in one part of my parish a place that we bought some time ago, and there is never any trouble there. There is a very large commonage of 1,500 acres. Those people who have rights not only graze there, but allow their neighbours to graze it and don't make any noise over it.

40195. I have experience, too, of grazing rights, and I find no litigation resulting, and I cannot see why there should be litigation over common grazing rights on those ranches?—Once you settle what the rights are, I fancy there would not be.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—The rights would be so much a lead for the cattle.

40196. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I take it you speak of people whose past history on confined areas

has involved them in that litigious disposition to some extent?—Yes.

40197. Living in a close neighbourhood, on small holdings?—Yes. A trespass means a good deal in some of them.

40198. Mr. BUTTERHAM.—But the ancient custom in Ireland was common management of the land?—I am aware of that, but it is so long ago that I am afraid they have forgotten the traditions.

40199. They have been fed upon political economy and individualism?—Yes. Another means by which the condition of the occupiers of small holdings—and for that matter of the occupiers of large holdings as well—could be greatly improved is, agricultural education. Clare is, I regret to say, very backward in agricultural education?—West Clare especially. The few resident landless farms such lands as are in their own possession just as badly as their tenants. The Agricultural Department has done practically nothing for agriculture in West Clare. Whether that is the fault of the County Committee or the fault of the Department, I am not prepared to say. I believe both are to blame. For the past six years some £5,000 a year has been expended on what the Department and the local Committee are pleased to call Agricultural and Technical Education, while the value received by Clare bears a very small proportion to the expenditure. A good portion of this money has been spent on bulls and stallions, good enough purposes in themselves, although West Clare has benefited very little by them; but what Clare East and West sorely requires is education in modern methods of agriculture, and little or nothing has been done in that direction. With improved agricultural methods, I venture to say the land could be got to produce twice as much as it produces at present. The land is saturated with moisture, and there is very little done in the way of drainage. Drainage, arterial and field, is greatly needed. The tillage in the county is small and badly done. After six years under the Department of Agriculture, not one-fifth of the potatoes were sprayed last year. There is just one way by which Clare farmers can be taught, and that is by object lessons. If a few well-managed and well-tilled small farms and the profitable results of them, were in each parish, I believe the results would be beneficial. Demonstration plots scattered through the county and in the neighbourhood of every church in the county where the people could see them, would be a great advantage. Above all, the children at school should be taught practical agriculture, and with a view to that object, there should be attached to every rural school one acre of land at least, for the purpose of a school garden, and which should be cultivated according to the best and most up-to-date methods. In every rural school there should be at least one teacher, a skilled agriculturist, holding a diploma for the teaching of agriculture. This he could get by attending an agricultural college for six months, either at the period of training or afterwards. The great and, indeed, the only industry of the people of Ireland is agriculture, and it seems ridiculous to be sending children in rural schools during their entire course, everything except agriculture.

40200. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You begin with the beginning?—Yes.

40201. You consider that if the sons of farmers get a little practical training in agriculture they would be more inclined to till the land afterwards?—Of course. They would know how to till it, and know the advantages of tilling it.

40202. You think that if in the peninsula stretching out to Loop Head, demonstration plots or farms were established on a practical basis so as to show the people what could be done in the proper rotation of crops, the results would be good?—I think that the results would be very beneficial.

40203. Mr. BUTTERHAM.—You want these attached to the school?—Yes.

40204. You want to bring the education to the people who would benefit by it?—Yes. In our National schools they are taught everything, cooking and all sorts of things, everything to wear them from the hand, though the hand is what they are to live by afterwards. There was nominally agriculture in the schools, but the schoolmaster himself could not tell you a shillelagh from a dock-head. He read the thing out of books, and his own garden was the worst in the parish.

40202. It seems rather anomalous that there is so much effort put forth to teach what is called agriculture, and that agriculture is exactly the thing we don't do in Ireland?—No. We have read a lot of speeches about agriculture in Ireland, but as far as practical work is concerned, there has been nothing. I was all round West Clare last summer. I went round with the view of getting evidence and seeing how things were. I did not see from Londonderry passed by Ballaghlinne, Moher, Labern, Miltown-Mulvey, and on until I came home, a garden of potatoes sprayed; and you are told that really the Department of Agriculture has changed the face of the land in Ireland.

40203. I dare say you would not in any country in Europe travel so much good land and see so little agriculture?—Unless to have a cow in a field.

40204. I don't call that agriculture?—Nobody does, of course.

40205. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—From that suggestion of yours to which you have given such elaboration, it would appear a necessary conclusion to have an agricultural life to the training college for students?—Certainly, because if you send in a teacher and tell him to teach agriculture, he will get it out of books, and when an inspector comes who knows a little about agriculture as he does himself he will answer what is down, and tell him about the rotation of crops and that turnips ought to follow oats, and so on; but if you bring him out and ask him how in the spring to be sown, and how the oats to be sown, he has no more idea of it than he has of the transit of Venus.

40206. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The thing is to have an experimental garden attached to the school?—Yes.

40207. You want to see more reality imparted into the teaching of agriculture?—Certainly.

40208. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is there any spraying going on this year?—Last year taught them a lesson. I think that there will be a good deal of spraying this year. The price of the stuff has gone up a great deal. Some years ago it was 22 shillings. This year it will be 32 shillings.

40209. They have no horse machines for spraying?—No. I wish they had hand ones, and used them.

40210. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Did any scheme occur to you by which a society could encourage and partly compel the people to spray?—Personally, I have been preaching spraying for thirteen or fourteen years and have succeeded wherever I have been stationed. That is one way of working. If the priests took it up I think that they could get their parishioners to spray. I certainly think that our Agricultural Committee—and I recommended it to some of them, and don't know why they did not take it up—should give a bonus for spraying, say, in the shape of repaying the staff for spraying at half-price to small holdings under £10. They did not do then. They prefer to have shortcrops, or something of that kind.

40211. Don't you think that your suggestion would be a very practicable expenditure?—Of course it would, but I don't think that the Department would allow that. As Sir Horace Plunkett once said to me, that would be encouraging a man to do what he ought to do himself.

40212. Would not you consider it educational to give the spraying mixture at a reduced price until all the people got into the habit of spraying regularly?—Yes.

40213. Mr. O'KEEFE.—I thought that the Department came into existence for the purpose of encouraging and stimulating agriculture?—So it was. It has had a rather good trial, and except where agriculture was at a pretty good stage of progress before it was established I don't think it has improved much since.

40214. Is it as good now for from six to seven years?—Yes.

40215. I venture to say that the views you have formed are shared by nine-tenths of those who have listened into its working?—I think that anybody who inquires with an open mind, at all events, must come to that conclusion. People who have jobs on the Department staff naturally don't come with an open mind.

40216. Mr. KAVANAGH.—At the same time I don't see how you can encourage agriculture where there is no ill-will?—In one way you can. You can show a man what may be done. If you say to him, "You see exhausting that land by your present system of

grazing cattle; you have old grass there for forty years, and it has got full of weeds; turn it up; to be sure a crop of oats won't pay you, but when you sow a crop of turnips and mature it well, and then let it out with grass seedling, you will make fine land of this," he won't agree; but if they had small farms in his neighbourhood where he could see this system carried out and see its advantages, I have no doubt that before two years they would adopt the system.

40217. He had labour; but suppose they had not the labour?—He has his own sons very often out working at something else, when it would be more profitable to have them attending to the farm. Suppose he has no labour there is a great difficulty. You can have labour if you can pay for it, but the labour is going away steadily. That is another strong reason for doing what I want to do, that in a short time—already we have nearly come to that—if emigration goes on as it is going there will be no labour left in the country.

40218. You are strongly in favour of experimental plots?—Certainly, and I think that if we could get experimental small farms it would be even better than that.

40219. Most Hon. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Farms of the ordinary size that the people hold?—Yes.

40220. Then you would have it filled in the best way for that locality?—Yes.

40221. You think that the successful tilling of such a farm would induce neighbouring holders to follow suit?—I have no doubt about it.

40222. If they did that young men would have a great deal of occupation for their own hands?—I have had experience of that. I was down in King's County and part of Tipperary as a curate. Whenever you had in that neighbourhood a landlord who filled his land, as most of them did till then—having stewards and giving employment—all the small farmers around them were quite as good farmers as the landlord's steward. What taught these farmers was the object lesson before their eyes. We have never had anything of the kind here. Want of capital is in a great many instances the cause why many farms in Clare are not worked to great advantage. To provide capital I think the State could with advantage lead to complete who have purchased their holdings sums of money up to one-third of the amount of the advance made to purchase the holding—the loan to be at 3½ per cent. for 25 years. A man purchases his holding at say, £200. He borrows for drainage purposes £25. The interest upon £25 will add little to his instalments of interest, while £25 judiciously expended on many a small holding would make it twice as valuable as it was before such expenditure. This would make the payment of his instalments of purchase more easy and the danger of failure less. I think certainly that in West Clare it would work very well. The farmer himself would earn all that money in improving his own holding.

40223. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I could understand a scheme of advancing money for drainage?—This is for improvement in general.

40224. Including drainage. If the farmer had no other burden that would be all right; but do you mean to impose this further burden of a loan upon him after he has purchased?—Yes, because I don't consider it a burden. I consider it a means of relieving the burden already upon him.

40225. After a time?—The first day—you take a farm, as I have said, bought at £200, that requires improvement, and is notoriously in a rather derelict condition.

40226. What annuity would he be paying?—On £200 his annuity would be £9 15s. You add fifty shillings to that.

40227. Would that be sufficient?—That would give him the £25.

40228. How would he expend it?—He has been for a great number of years paying at least £12 or £13 rent. He buys, say, at 2½ years' purchase, and gets a reduction of six shillings in the pound on his rent or about seventy-eight shillings a year. Deduct that from £12, and the rent he would have to pay is only £2 2s., as compared with £12, in fact £10, which the man's rent used to be.

40229. He is actually paying now in rent more than he would pay after getting all these improvements in future?—Yes.

June 5, 1907.

Rev. E. Glynn.

June 7, 1907.

Mr. P. Glynn.

40232. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The £9 10s. a year would be added to repay the £70 borrowed for and spent on the improvement of the land.

40233. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You would have this advantage; as the drainage told on the land you would relieve the pressure at a time when future contingencies might make it very difficult for him to repay his instalments?—Certainly. You improve him in every way. You give him money to earn—the very thing we want in Ireland. You give him £70 that himself and his family can earn and apply to the improvement of his holding. In addition he improves his holding, and makes it certainly once and a half as valuable as it was before that, and he still pays less rent than he paid before purchase.

40234. Do you suggest any plan to secure the expenditure of the £70?—Yes. I should be very careful about the expenditure. There should be an Inspector belonging, I suppose, to the Estates Commissioners or the Board of Works, a man who would take care not to give out a penny until it was earned.

40235. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What could he borrow at now?—I suppose that the State would lend at the same rate as it does to the borrowing purchaser. At present he could borrow at 25 10s. per cent. for twenty-two years. Borrowing at that rate is rather prohibitive, because you increase the rent too much right off.

40236. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You consider that it would be good State policy to advance money at a cheap rate of interest to enable a man to purchase his holding, and that it is better policy still to advance money that you may hand over that holding to him in good workable condition?—Yes.

40237. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What strike one is the difference in the two transactions. You purchase a holding and improve it and your security is less than the rent that you pay at present?—Yes.

40238. How do you reconcile that?—I don't reconcile it. It is a fact.

40239. Is not it a remarkable thing that a farm without any improvements except what are made by the tenant pays £13 at present, and that after it is purchased and improved he can get it for £11?—Yes.

40240. What is the inevitable deduction from that?—I don't know.

40241. The enormous rent that he is paying?—Yes.

40242. That a tenancy unimproved is of more value than a tenancy improved?—Yes; but the old system of paying these high rents is one of the factors, I need not tell you, in producing the existing condition of the country.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I think it is; but there could not be a more striking illustration than you have given.

40243. Mr. KAVANAGH.—I don't think that it is evidence of very high rents at all, but rather that the State is lending money at a cheap rate of interest. Owing to the system of purchase within areas, I agree to say that in the poorer districts the prices paid are excessive. Fairly good land favourably situated in proximity to markets may be worth twenty-five and twenty-seven and a-half years' purchase when inferior land in backward districts is not worth ten years' purchase. Bad land is dear at any price, and the security to the State is precarious. Tenants on bad and inferior land, nevertheless, are anxious to buy at almost any price: first, to get rid of the millions of arrears, and thus, as they say themselves, "cut the gad out the throat," and, secondly, because of the few shillings in the £ reduction. In nineteen-twentieths of the cases of purchase of inferior land no competent Inspector would say the holdings were security for the instalments. I also consider it a great misfortune that by the purchase of small holdings congestion is being stereotyped. One of the strongest reasons put forward by Mr. Wyndham for the economy of the Land Act of 1903, and it was the reason that appealed most strongly to Parliament, was—in order to bring relief to "the rotten and rigid communities" in the West of Ireland. Surely reducing the rent of a tenant who has been paying £5 a year to £3 10s. will not bring him much relief, neither will it enable him to keep one less of his seven or eight children from the emigrant ship. As far as Clare is concerned, the Land Act has not given even the small relief there referred to, for it has been practically a dead letter in the county owing to the high prices demanded by landlords for their estates. During the period from the 1st November, 1903, up to the 31st March, 1906, the amount of money applied

for in Clare was only £405,156, and the average purchase price exclusive of bonus was 20·6 years, while under the Ashbourne and Ballinacree Acts the average purchase price was 15·9. And this high purchase price is very often given for miserable unworkable holdings; indeed average holdings purchased in Clare under the Act of 1903 can scarcely be said to be economic. From the Report of the Estates Commissioners I learn that the second-term tenants in Clare purchased their holdings at 22·9 years' purchase, exclusive of the bonus, and the average rent of these tenants was only £10 8s., while the average rent of the non-judicial Clare tenant purchasers was only £10 18s., and the purchase price 21·6 years without the bonus. The conclusion to be deduced from these figures is obvious. I think it is a block in the way of emigration and stereotyping congestion.

40244. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You consider that no good purpose is served by selling to a number of small occupiers without some attempt being made to exchange the holdings?—Yes.

40245. You think where the land is occupied to this great extent by small occupiers public policy demands that before the holdings are sold to the occupiers on an estate an effort should be made to provide an enlargement?—They should be made to provide where you see a man who cannot rear his family on what he has got.

40246. That is one of your points, and the other is this: that the sale of bad land is a very different thing from the sale of good land?—Yes.

40247. And a large number of years' purchase on the sale of bad land is a dangerous thing?—In two ways the thing is quite ridiculous. You have a number of tenants who have bad land, and if the authority was round to investigate the circumstances of these holdings declares that their holdings are not security to the State for an annuity, then, surely, they are not security to the landlord for rent. Beside these men is a body of men on good land whose rents are paid as regularly as the interest on Consols. The landlord makes no distinction in the purchase price between the man for whom he has good security and the man for whom he has no security. I think that is ridiculous.

40248. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What is the position of the large grazier? Can he purchase also?—No. If he has only an eleven months' letting he is not a tenant and cannot purchase, but a grazier who is a twelve months' tenant or a judicial tenant can purchase. The policy of the State was that money to a greater extent than £3,000 could not be advanced to these people. That was increased to £5,000, and unfortunately, under the Wyndham Act, it got further increased to £7,000, so if he can show reasons to the Estates Commissioners for having an advance made up to £7,000 he can perpetrate swindling.

40249. Mr. O'KELLY.—The increase to £7,000 was to cover the case of tenants who had been evicted under the plan of campaign and others?—I think it is a pity that that was not put down in black and white.

40250. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—So they are stereotyping it in both ways?—Yes, stereotyping poverty, congestion, and grazing.

40251. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Don't you think that it is very much against good policy that public money should be advanced to enable a man who merely grazes his land to receive advances up to £7,000?—I think that it is outrageous.

40252. Mr. O'KELLY.—Suppose that the Congested Districts Board bought a property on which such a tenancy existed, would not it be within the power of the Congested Districts Board to determine such tenancy?—That is the suggestion I make. I would allow no man, whether a tenant or a landlord, to have more than a certain quantity of land—say 2500 valuation.

40253. They can determine the tenancy?—I did not know that.

40254. 2500 is rather high?—Too high, except in the case of a farmer who gave a great deal of employment for labour. If a man has a very large holding and gives constant employment to six or seven labourers he is quite as useful a member of the community as anybody. In illustration of what I have been saying about congestion I submit a case, however, which has come under my own notice, and which will give the Commission some idea of the miserable character of many of the holdings that are being purchased. A Clare landlord who held an estate in the neighbourhood of Killybeg offered to sell it to the tenants in the

year 1806 or 1807 for sixteen years' purchase. No doubt was the Act of 1803 passed that the tenants agreed to buy from him at twenty-three years' purchase. They afterwards backed out of their offer, and he sold the estate to the Estate Commissioners, and he got a price which worked out at, I believe, twenty-two or more years' purchase. On that estate the valuation per head of the population of four of the townlands sold is only £1 4s. 4d., and in those four townlands there are about sixty families. Surely, this is stereotyping congestion. In one of those townlands the population has fallen thirty-five per cent. in the ten years from 1801 to 1806, and the Census Blue Book informs us that the decrease is due to emigration.

40292. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Are there grass lands near that might be used?—No; unfortunately in West Clare there is very little grass land. Near Quilly there are 300 or 400 acres, and there is quite a large number of poor people on small holdings in the neighbourhood. There are some rather considerable grass lands in the peninsula, but there are very few grazing tracts in West Clare. In North Clare it is all grazing. What we complain of most is that the Estate Commissioners in this case were the medium of the bargain. It was sold to them, and they resold to the tenants.

40293. Did they resell to the tenants without making any attempt to enlarge the holdings?—I don't know that it was possible to enlarge them because there were no lands in the neighbourhood.

40294. Would it have been possible to buy lands at a distance and migrate some of the tenants?—Certainly. I don't think they should agree to a sale of that kind.

40295. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The Inspector saw 147—Yes.

40296. And declared it value for the money?—I presume so. Seeing that the valuation per head varied out at £1 4s. 4d., and seeing that in one of the townlands 35 per cent. of the people emigrated in ten years, I don't think it was value for very much.

40297. Mr. BORMESLAND.—You think this was a case in which a public body like the Congested Districts Board might deal with the estate before it was sold?—I think so.

40298. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would this be your idea? The public body in charge of relieving congestion should buy that land from the owner. That same body at the same time should, if necessary, purchase grass land at a distance, and work the two things together?—Yes; transfer some of the uncongenial people to these grass lands, and then divide the holdings among these others.

40299. But you consider that the vesting order should not be made out until an attempt was made at all events to secure holdings at a distance?—Yes; and in addition I think that it was the duty of the Congested Districts Board, the Estates Commissioners, or some body to improve the land that they were giving to these people, which is in a most deplorable condition.

40300. Mr. BORMESLAND.—Have you nothing to say about the land that was offered in 1807 for 15 years' purchase, and was afterwards sold for 25 years?—Simply that the very statement of the fact shows how land is going in Ireland.

40301. That is to say that the motion of the price of land is upward?—Automatically this happened on the passing of the Act of 1803. You cannot buy under that Act except you buy within the zones. Automatically the price of land went up.

40302. Why?—Because you cannot buy it under a certain price. The landlord says, "I cannot sell, because the remainder man will have a case against me. Here is the State saying: Instead of 14½ years' purchase of first and 23 of second term rents you must give from 21½ to 27½. I won't go as high as 27½. I will sell for 22."

40303. We have heard continually that the value of the land has gone down since 1801?—Yes; it has. Are not they getting deductions every day?

40304. Rent comes down and the price of land comes up?—A rather funny argument is that a man ought to give more for a second term than for a first term tenancy. The landlord would argue in this way, that the second term tenant has been informed and got a reduction of 5 shillings in the pound, but the reply to that is that the reduction was given

because the land was not worth any more, and times have gone down.

40305. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You consider that the number of years' purchase should follow the current rent?—Certainly; but I have shown it has gone up in the County Clare 6 years' purchase, or if you add the bonus, by 6 years' purchase, and if you add the advantage in the payment of legal expenses equal to a year's purchase, the addition to the price would be 9 years' purchase. No wonder the people should emigrate, seeing that they had nothing to live upon at home. Whether the party reduction of 5s. in the pound which they have received on purchase is likely to enable the tenant that wishes to prosper is, I think, disputable. The same landlord has an estate in the parish of Cappahigh, for the purchase of which there were negotiations in 1804. The landlord had at the time a considerable acreage of "cut-away bog" upon his hands, and he agreed at the time to give this bog for the purpose of having it divided with a view to make some of the holdings on the estate less uncongenial. The sale fell through, and the "cut-away bog" has been since then disposed of to tenants upon other estates—in punishment as the tenants allege, for the tenants not having agreed to the landlord's terms of purchase. On this estate there are about twenty or more tenants whose holdings are entirely valueless, consisting of a cabin and a few acres of "cut-away bog" for which they pay about £2 a year. The tenants live by the sale of turf, and at money sent by relatives from America. The turfery bog which supplies them with turf is the only bog within a radius of six or seven miles and supplies turf to the people within this radius. It is almost exhausted and can last only a couple of years at the furthest. When the turfery has been cut away, the security for the instalments of these poor people shall have gone, and, yet, if these men had agreed to the landlord's terms and had purchased at 25 years' purchase in 1804, the sale would have automatically gone through. If emigration is to be put an end to, the sales of uncongenial holdings should at once cease, these holdings should be added to other holdings in the neighbourhood, and the occupiers of these uncongenial holdings should be transferred to holdings provided for them in other parts of the country, and to lands now in the occupation of graziers.

40306. Are you aware that one of the objects, perhaps the leading object of investing the Estates Commissioners with the powers of the Congested Districts Board in regard to congested estates, was to enable them to do this class of work which you describe outside of the scheduled areas in such counties as Clare?—I am aware of that, but I was aware that they did not do it.

40307. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You wish to have the whole of Clare scheduled as congested?—I did not say the whole of Clare. I said any electoral division in which the per head valuation of 50 per cent. of the population is under thirty shillings.

40308. That applies to nearly all the Union of Kilrush?—Yes, practically, and Keshmystown.

40309. You think that the fact of these districts being scheduled would tend to stop emigration?—Not the fact of scheduling them. I do not look on that as any advantage except this, that whenever a district is scheduled in any county where there are scheduled districts, it should be in the power of some authority to take up compulsorily all land that is needed for the relief of congestion, and then by transferring those people in the congested electoral divisions to these lands now in the hands of graziers it would tend to stop emigration, because it would give them the means of living at home.

40310. Do you find that emigration takes place less from the large holdings than from the small holdings?—Certainly, because some of the people can provide for their children at home, give them a fortune sometimes, or start them on other farms.

40311. That is your experience?—Certainly.

40312. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—About that definition of yours a question has arisen. You consider that no area ought to be scheduled where half the population are under thirty shillings valuation?—Per head of the population.

40313. Would you limit that in this way; would you consider that they should be not only under thirty shillings valuation, but that they should be under thirty shillings valuation as considered

June 3, 1907.

Rev. P. O'Donnell.

June 5, 1907.

Rev. F. Glynn.

attached to the holdings on which they live? The point is this: if you don't put in a limitation of this kind, you might put on the people from different families, and say, "Such a one has no valuation at all"—No, because I take an electoral division, and I find that in that electoral division

fifty per cent. of the population are under a valuation of 30s. per head.

40266. You take them as they are found on definite holdings?—Yes, of course.

40267. That is the sense in which you valuated it?—Yes.

Mr. JOHN MURRAY examined.

Mr. John Murray.

40271. You reside at Killee and represent the County Council of Clare?—Yes.

40272. Kindly refer to any points that you wish to bring before the Commission?—The first matter that I had intended to deal with was the high prices demanded by landlords. Father Glynn has dealt fully with that.

40273. The next point, I understand, is the high rates charged for fish by the railway companies and the want of accommodation for landing fish on the coast of Clare?—I know that from Killee the rates for cured fish to Liverpool are 17s. 6d. a ton, while from Clifden or Dingle the rates are only 14s.

40274. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What would be the value of that ton of fish when sold?—It varies. It goes up as high as £12 or £14.

40275. That does not appear a very high proportion for the carriage?—It very seldom touches £14. It is generally about £12.

40276. But you may have cases like this of fish being consigned to market to sell, and then a demand from the railway company for carriage that cost more than the price realised by the fish?—Certainly; it occurred to myself.

40277. It is quite common in Scotland?—It is quite common with us. I have sent fish to England or Dublin, and instead of getting something for the fish I was billed for the freight.

40278. That is of course when the quantity sent is small?—It generally occurs when the quantity of fish is large and the market is glutted, so that prices go down.

40279. Mr. KAVANAGH.—What would be your remedy for that?—If the rates were reduced for fish coming to the market it would help. The rates are very high, about three shillings a hundred for fresh fish, from Killee to Dublin. If that were reduced to 1s. 6d. it would help very much.

40280. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are there special cheap rates for fish in Ireland?—I don't think there are, as far as I am aware.

40281. How are they regulated—are they divided into zones, and if you have five or six towns inside a certain circle, do they all pay the same inside that circle?—Yes; that is how it is.

40282. You would like to see that rate reduced?—Yes.

40283. It would help the fishermen?—Yes, very much. When I buy the fish from the fishermen I have to try to meet all these expenses, to buy the fish cheap, so that it results on the fishermen.

40284. You heard what Father Glynn said about the profit going ultimately to the man who buys?—I was not in at the time.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—He said that most of the profit went to the middleman.

40285. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do you agree with that?—Sometimes; not always. The middleman sometimes loses heavily, but taking it generally, as a rule, he has his profit.

40286. May I ask if you do anything in the fishing?—Yes.

40287. As a fisherman or a middleman?—As a middleman. For the last three months we could not buy any fish at all. We could not touch it, to send to market or otherwise.

40288. Where do you get the mackerel principally along the coast of Clare?—From Mitown-Malbay to Clare Head.

40289. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is there a baronial guarantee on that railway?—Yes.

40290. How much in the pound on the valuation does it amount to?—It varies. It goes up and down. It is 8d. this half year—it will be 6d. the next.

40291. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It depends on the loss on the working?—Yes.

40292. It would be the interest of the railway company itself to give facilities for carrying fish?—Yes.

40293. They would get more fish to carry?—Yes, as much.

40294. The amount earned would be more, and consequently the guarantee would be less?—That is a fact.

40295. Have you ever made representations to the railway company to that effect?—Yes; I have often spoken to the manager about it, and he says that they cannot reduce it.

40296. Is not it a fact that it is a favoured railway—that there was a grant of public money to make it, and a guarantee of public money to pay its dividends?—In virtue of getting that should they not carry the fish more favourably?—I think so.

40297. What have you got to say about the pier that are required?—We have no pier at all in the County Clare to land fish in with sailing boats. There is a place called Farragh within two miles of Killee, and if there was 240 expended on that pier they could fish twice as often as they do.

40298. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What would it be for?—If there was a shelter for closing up a gap between two rocks it would keep the sea away.

40299. It is not the difficulty of living outside when the boats go out, but the difficulty of getting in and out?—That is the whole difficulty. Farther back towards Loop Head the same difficulty exists. In Killee if there were a pier that a sailing boat might come into and deliver fish it would be a great facility.

40300. Where would it require to be?—It is very shallow there?—No; it is very deep around Killee, in the bay of Killee. There could be a pier built there. There is a breakwater already there.

40301. Where is the landing place already?—It is at the place I refer to.

40302. I saw fresh mackerel being carried around Killee this morning—when would that have been caught?—Last night.

40303. How much would they have as a rule?—Some mornings they might have about 1,000 or so.

40304. Is it in the currucho they go out?—Yes. There is not a sailing boat. The sailing boat could not be there without a pier. If there was a pier there it would be all right. I had a sailing boat there, and I had to sell her, because there was no place to put her or land the fish. There is a pier at Carrigaholm.

40305. How many nets do they carry in their currucho?—Three or four nets—each not about fifty yards.

40306. What at the very best time of the year would they get for a night's catch?—I would put it down at £1 on an average.

40307. Which is the better fishery—spring or autumn?—Autumn is the better.

40308. How long does the autumn mackerel fishing last?—It lasts from September to Christmas, but from last September up to Christmas, I suppose, they did not get six nights' fishing. They might go out and get no fish, or else the weather was very bad and they could not go out at all.

40309. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—It was a stormy season?—Yes. They could not get the fish. The fish were not there at all. It was after Christmas that they got the principal fishing.

40310. Did you say to Mr. Sutherland how many piers there are in the coast of Clare at which an open boat or a dished boat would be safe?—I don't think there is one.

40311. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Liscannor?—A boat may come in in the day time, but it could not come in at night. The pier at Carrigaholm is inland up the river, and when a boat comes up to discharge her fish she cannot go out to fish until the following night.

40312. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You know the coast of Clare yourself?—Thoroughly well.

40323. You know the classes of boats called the nobby and the mulo boat?—Yes.

40324. Where on the coast of Clare would a nobby or a mulo boat be safe during the winter?—Nowhere, except in Kilrush here, and at the pier at Carrigrohilly and at Ballyvaughan.

40325. On a stormy day during summer when night you land on the coast of Clare?—Carrigrohilly would be the safest. Liscannore is not so safe, but Carrigrohilly is so far up the river and so far from the railway that you cannot fish from it regularly every night. Kilkee is just beside the railway, and if you had a pier there at which a boat could be sheltered safely while the fish could be landed it would be very useful, and, in addition, you are immediately on the fishing ground the moment you go outside the pier, whereas from Foalt and Carrigrohilly you cannot fish more than three nights a week. From Kilkee you could fish every night regularly if there was a pier built, which would help the fishermen very much.

40326. It is the carrack or canoe they use there

now?—Yes. These are the only boats that are safe there or could have them.

40327. It would take a very considerable expenditure to make a safe fishing harbour there?—A harbour could hardly be built there, but a pier could be built where the people could run in and deliver their fish.

40328. Mr. KAVANAGH.—If we could have anything to show us this evening, Mr. Sutherland, and I will go down and inspect the site at Kilkee?—I will be there any time after six o'clock.

40329. Have you anything to say as regards drainage and the reclamation of waste bog lands?—There are some bog districts where poor people are living on very small poor holdings, and if these places were drained, and roads were made into the bogs, and the holdings were enlarged, it would be an enormous advantage.

40330. Would drainage be a difficult matter in the County Clare?—Quite easy.

40331. Is there a good fall?—Splendid fall; either to the Atlantic or to the Shannon side. It would be very easy to drain West Clare everywhere.

Mr. MICHAEL MEEGAN examined.

40332. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You represent the Kilrush Rural District?—Yes.

40333. Kindly bring before us any statement that you wish to make?—I have been appointed by the Kilrush Rural District Council, at their meeting, held on 11th May, 1907, to give evidence before the Royal Commission on Congested Areas at their sitting to be held at Kilrush on Wednesday, the 5th June. I have been a member of the Kilrush Board of Guardians since 1896, Chairman of the Board from 1896 to 1900, and Chairman of the Rural District Council for a period of six years. I am Chairman at present. The rural portion of the union comprises twenty-seven electoral divisions, divided into four dispensary districts. The area of the union is 126,170 acres; the population is 24,586, and the valuation is £48,589. The indebtedness of the union is as follows:—Balance due to the 31st March, 1907, Kilroe, £229 2s. 4d., at 3½ per cent. for thirty years; Cross, £37 15s., at 1 per cent. for thirty years; Mullaigh, £34 2s. 6d., at 2½ per cent. for thirty years; Carrigrohilly, £30 2s. 4d., at 1 per cent. for thirty years; Coonacree, £30, at 1 per cent. for thirty years—Total, £379 7s. 4d. Shanakyle Burial Ground, £368 10s., at 4 per cent. for fifty years; Parilly Burial Ground, £35 15s., at 4 per cent. for thirty years; Labourers' Acre, 1903, £2,844 15s., at 3½ per cent. for fifty years—Gross total, £4,015 7s. 4d. Proposed Kilroe Waterworks loan, £4,000, at 3½ per cent. Probable cost of New Labourers' Scheme, £22,000, at 3½ per cent. Total amount for outdoor relief, ending 25th March, 1907—£1,080. In addition there is a guarantee of 8 per cent. on £25,000 on the loan of Moyarta, on a valuation of £27,120, together with a county-at-large charge of twopence on the £1 for West and South Clare Railways, involving a tax from seven pence to fourteen pence per annum. There is a further charge on two parishes, and portion of the third, namely Killiner, Kilnashill, and part of Kilmarry M'Mahon, within this union, on a guarantee of £5,000, together with a county-at-large charge, thereby involving a tax of four pence to seven pence in the £ on a valuation of £11,607. The portion of the loan of Moyarta, within the union, is liable for a county-at-large contribution of two pence on the £ for West and South Clare Railways, and for deficiency in guarantee and working expenses in West Clare Railway. The loan of Moyarta, and other contributory loans liable for all deficiency in working expenses, on the South Clare Railway. The area of chargeability for the Kilroe Waterworks loan is the dispensary district on a valuation of £11,670 15s. There are 223 holdings in the union under 1 statute acre; 476 above, and not exceeding 5 acres; 565 above 5, and not exceeding 15 acres; 5,671 acres of barren mountain land; 1,364 acres of marsh land; 7,437 acres of turf; 805 acres of woods; 18 acres of fallow land; £1,855 acres of grass; 22,120 acres of tillage; 8,775 acres under water, roads, and fences. From the number of small tenemental holdings in the Kilrush Union, and comparing same with similar holdings in any of the unions in the counties already scheduled under the

Congested Districts Board, I am of opinion the Kilrush Union has a strong claim to be scheduled under the Board, with a view of these poor people deriving the benefits conferred on people similarly in the counties already scheduled. The area of the union extends along the coast of the Atlantic Ocean for a distance of about thirty miles. The poor people on the coast live principally by fishing, and burning kelp, and drawing sea-wood, and selling it in winter and spring time to the farmers. They have no land attached to their houses, but have to go sometimes miles into the county districts to till what is commonly known as cow-acre lettings from year to year. I refer to the electoral divisions of Kilmarry and Cleonsdra, abutting on the sea. There is a grass farm in the latter division, owned by the representative of H. M'Mahon O'Leary, in the townland of Kildubhane, containing 263 acres broods 22 ponies; valuation, £205 10s. This holding has been let under the eleven months' system for grazing purposes. Had the union been scheduled under the Congested Districts Board, the Board could acquire possession by compulsory purchase of this large holding, and migrate the poor people from the sea coast into this holding when parcellled out in lots, to suit the requirements of the individuals and thereby relieve congestion to a great extent. Otherwise I would recommend to the Commission that compulsory powers be given to the Estate Commissioners to acquire possession of this holding and have it parcellled out amongst the poor people in the immediate locality, who have no land. I would recommend to the Commission the advisability of assisting the poor fishermen along the coast of the Kilrush Union. Their fishing gear is of the worst description. They serve noised any aid from Government whatsoever, but always depend on their own poor resources. Whereas the fishermen along the coast of the counties scheduled derive every benefit at the disposal of the Board. There are several electoral divisions whose present conditions deserve the consideration of the Commission because of their congestion, and the very miserable houses in which several families at present reside, with as many as ten in family, in houses built of bog rock, and thatched with rushes. The Donnelly electoral division, area of which is 5,472 acres; valuation, £1,548; population, 1,335, and number of holdings, 313. I beg to refer the Commission to the townland of Seagh, in the above electoral division: area, 1,483 acres 0 roods 6 pence; valuation, £236 10s., with fifty-four holdings on same. About forty of these households reside in miserable cabins built of bog rock, and, in fact, not fit for human habitation; their holdings are very small, and not large enough for to maintain the poor people in any way approaching decency. The poor people in this townland mainly subsist on the earnings that come from the cutting and selling of turf, and loading it on the siding on South Clare Railway. The holdings occupied by these poor people were once wild, barren bog; they started sea-wood from the shore, and after years of hard work and labour succeeded in reclaiming their respective little holdings, the area of

Mr. Michael Meegan.

June 5, 1907
 Mr. Michael
 Michael.

which an average does not exceed four statute acres. So congested is this townland that scarcely a year has there been an outbreak of fever of the worst type, which cost the ratpayers of the union a considerable amount of money each time there is fever in the townland. The union sunk a pump in the locality—640. There is a holding in the centre of this townland on the landlord's lands at present—Mr. Marcus Walsh—area of which is 233 acres 16 perches; should this be purchased at a fair value and parcelled out to these poor people, it would go a good way to relieve the congestion in the miserable hovels in which they reside at present, together with the other facilities at the disposal of the Congested Districts Board by way of small loans for building purposes. Portions of the electoral divisions of Elphin and Knocknagonea are in a congested condition, some of the houses built on the verge of the bog—rather on very unsanitary sites. There is a good deal of barren mountain as well as of mucky land in the union which requires cultivation as well as drainage, should a properly constituted Board be formed, with borrowing powers. The Land Purchase Act of 1903 is no improvement on the previous Land Acts. Prices obtained for land from 1825 to 1856, and up to 1903, in this union ranged from thirteen to eighteen and a half years' purchase, with a decadal reduction of 30 per cent. every ten years; whereas the price paid for land since the passing of the Land Act of 1903 varies from eighteen and a half to twenty-four and a half, with a bonus of about three years' purchase added. Very few sales have taken place in this union since the passing of the Act of 1903, owing to the high prices demanded by the landlords, and their unwillingness to sell. Consequently there are very few sales in the union. I am conversant with an estate in this union; the tenants held under lease for a term of thirty years, from 1857; the gross rental was about £280; valuation, including buildings, £119; number of tenants on suitable holdings, fourteen. At the expiration of the lease, and at the passing of the Landholders' Act, the tenants applied to the Land Court to have fair rents fixed. The rents were reduced to £140, or a reduction of £80 per annum; these tenants were paying this £80 over and above the value of their holdings, as decided by the Land Commissioners of the day. The tenants had paid £2,400 during that period—in very depressed times—over the value of their holdings, owing to the bad laws relating to land tenure. I need not point out to the Commission how sensible this amount of money would be to the tenants; what amount of improvement they could effect during the period of thirty years. I mention this case, it being only one of the many cases of sub-tenanted estates in the Kilrush Union. Therefore, I have no hesitation in stating that the exorbitant rents demanded in the past is the principal cause of the great poverty in this union. Tenants on some estates have agreed to purchase at rather high rate of purchase owing to certain amount of arrears being wiped out, and proceedings being stayed to recover the current years' rent. It would be advisable the Estates Commissioners would have, in future, recourse to inspection on all estates sold under the Land Purchase Act, 1903. I maintain that direct sales by landlords to tenants, even at a low price on uneconomic holdings, does not better the condition of the tenant, because such tenant is devoid of capital to work his holding, even at a reduced rent; land without capital is almost valueless to the occupier. I am of opinion land purchase at a fair value is the first step leading to the future prosperity of any country. The farmers and small householders of the union depend, to a certain extent on money, the earnings of their families and friends who migrated to America, and Australia, and other countries, to enable them to tide over the depression in this union. Emigration still continues in this union. The farmers are devoid of capital, but living from hand to mouth. The Manchester Co-operative Association has built four principal creameries, with many auxiliaries in connection with each creamery. The company advances money to the farmers at the rate of 45 per cent. to enable them to buy cows to stock their lands. The principal and interest is to be paid to the company by giving the milk to the creamery company, the latter keeping half the price of the milk per month, or, as per agreement, until such time as the money advanced is repaid. Were it not for the money advanced by this company I am certain many farmers, with a radius of five miles, would be without a beast on their land.

40324. **MR. DR. O'DONNELL.**—You consider that the great farm to which you have referred in Cleardrum should be acquired and used for the enlargement of small holdings on the margin of it.—Yes.

40325. You also seem to hint that such an institution as the Parish Committee would be very much in place to encourage the people to improve their homesteads?—Yes.

40326. **MR. KAVANAGH.**—Is the Manchester Co-operative company a company that has come into the district to start a co-operative creamery?—Yes. It is a foreign co-operative company, and the farmers have no voice in the matter. You may really call it a private company.

40327. Is it doing good in the district?—It is enabling the people to live, that is all. Were it not for their intervention at the time, to my mind the farmers would be without stock or cattle feeding them to tide over a very miserable existence.

40328. What price do they get for their milk?—A very poor price, from 3d. to 4d. a gallon, which, I think, is about the highest. I have nothing to do with this co-operative association, but I have learned of it from the people who are supplying the milk.

40329. You have no other creameries in the district?—No; we had not capital enough to start co-operative creameries. Efforts were made to start them and the people had not sufficient funds, and the attempt fell through.

40330. How long has this creamery been in existence?—About seven years, I should think, at least.

40331. Have you noticed that the country goes out of tillage when the creamery comes into it?—We have had evidence in other districts, especially in Liscann and Sings, that the presence of a creamery diminishes the tillage—is that your experience?—I don't think that the creation of the creamery had anything to do with diminishing the tillage.

40332. It has diminished, of course?—Of course the tillage has diminished. The cost of producing it is rather expensive, and the capital was not in the country except what labour farmers could have in their own resources.

40333. Tillage would pay with a man who had his own labour?—Yes.

40334. What would you say was the size of an economic holding in this union of Kilrush—what would a man require to have to enable himself and family to live comfortably?—That depends on the quality of the land on which the holding is situated.

40335. You know Kilrush Union pretty well—suppose you were to enlarge those holdings of 210 and under, and you had sufficient land in the district to do so, to what extent would you enlarge them?—I would enlarge them at least to about 225 valuation.

40336. How many acres would that represent about?—It would represent, as land is situated at present, about forty Irish acres.

40337. That would ensure an enormous amount of land if you were going to make the holdings under £10 valuation economic?—I would not suggest all the holdings. I refer to the uneconomic, that is, those people between one and five acres, and the people living in the most miserable hovels. It is in these that I refer.

40338. People under 25?—Yes.

40339. **MR. O'KEEFE.**—Do you say it would require forty acres in the County Clare to make these holdings economic?—No. The Chairman referred to 225 valuation holdings, and I was referring to 255 valuation holdings.

40340. What is the general quality of the land in Kilrush Union?—It is very poor productive land.

40341. **MR. KAVANAGH.**—I asked you what would you consider an economic holding, and you said one of £20 valuation. I then asked you how many acres that would represent, and you said forty. Therefore, practically you say that forty acres is the size of an economic holding in the Kilrush Union?—Even with forty acres it might not be considered an economic holding, because there are many circumstances in connection with the term economic holding.

40342. **MR. O'KEEFE.**—What is the circumstance in your view?—The circumstance is that if a man had forty acres of barren bad land without sufficient capital that could not be considered an economic holding.

40343. **MR. SWEENEY.**—But of the average land about here, would it be necessary to have forty acres

to maintain them properly—could a man and his own family till a farm of forty acres?—That depends on the family. If he had twenty-five acres he might be just as comfortable as the man with forty acres.

40344. The measure would be the amount that he would be able to labour without paying for?—Yes.

40345. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have you any experience of the working of the Agricultural Committee in this district?—Yes. I am a member of the committee. They put certain schemes into operation. They have poultry keeping, live stock and prizes for agricultural holdings and farms, and an itinerant instructor going all over the county giving lectures, teaching the people how to till according to the best methods of agriculture.

40346. Do you think that these schemes benefit small holders as much as large holders?—The schemes are new, and only in operation for the last six years in this county. Very likely some benefits will accrue, but there is no substantial benefit at present.

40347. You think not?—I am certain of it; but the schemes will develop after a while.

40348. Have you any experimental plots in this district?—Yes, outside the town. We had no plots in the urban area, but you have them all over the entire county.

40349. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Where is the nearest one? Up at Moyetta, about five miles away.

40350. Mr. O'KEEFE.—What are your reasons for stating that after a while good results would accrue from the working of the Agricultural Committee?—Every beginning is weak, but I believe that when the whole scheme is developed later on some good will accrue.

40351. What is your experience of this committee during the last six years—has it reached the more needy class of the population?—It has, because there was no confusion.

40352. There was no statutory assistance of anybody, but have you given assistance during the last six years to small farmers?—Yes.

40353. What schemes have you in your opinion for their advantage?—A live stock scheme, and better-making instruction, poultry and domestic economy instruction, and an itinerant instructor going all over the county.

40354. Take the last first—what is the itinerant instructor doing?—He is giving lectures in the different centres on up-to-date methods of agricultural cultivation.

40355. These are all lectures given in the local schoolhouse?—Yes.

40356. Are these lectures accompanied by any practical demonstration on agricultural plots?—Sometimes they are.

40357. How many of them?—I could not say.

40358. What is your opinion of the value of itinerant instruction minus practical demonstration?—To my mind itinerant instruction is perfectly valuable without giving practical proof of such instruction.

40359. Therefore, that being your view, in the majority of cases at present the itinerant instruction is valuable?—I would not say so, because there are several plots in the county here, and they are becoming more numerous.

40360. Is it your opinion that the scheme promoted by the Agricultural Department and the local committee are of use, and that the money is well expended?—Let us take what good is in them out of them.

40361. Is it your opinion that the schemes promoted by the Department and the local committee are suitable to the County Class, and have been productive of good results?—I think that the results are not very great up to the present.

40362. Mr. KAVANAGH.—There are some results?—The results are very little.

40363. Mr. O'KEEFE.—We have now six years' experience of these schemes which are endorsed by the Department of Agriculture and by the County Committee. I want to know have any practical results accrued from this expenditure, and if so in what direction we must look for them?—We had not in the County Class an ordinary agricultural instructor until two years ago.

40364. You had other schemes?—Yes.

40365. Kindly lay a finger on the particular scheme which has justified the County Committee in incurring the expenditure that it has incurred?—Really

I could not, because there is not much benefit accrued as yet, but at all events we are hoping for the best.

40366. But in so far as the past six years are concerned there are no tangible results to its credit?—No, not very much.

40367. Are there any?—I would not say but there are. First of all domestic economy and manual instruction; they are under the heading of technical instruction.

40368. What is spent on manual instruction?—I could not tell you.

40369. A considerable sum is spent on it?—Yes.

40370. How many centres of manual instruction are there in the county?—A great many centres.

40371. What is the period intervening between the coming of a manual instructor to a district to teach a class and his advent to that district again?—It might be two years, or twelve months at the least.

40372. So really it is sporadic and not continuous instruction that you have under that heading?—Yes.

40373. It is often possible that when an instructor comes back after such a long absence his former pupils in that district have disappeared altogether?—Some of them.

40374. Do you regard that as a scheme on which you are justified in spending considerable sums out of the local rates?—To my mind the schemes should be improved so as to give a longer course of instruction, because the manual instructor only devotes six weeks of his time at each centre, except in the urban areas.

40375. Devoting six weeks to manual instruction merely results in turning out what you call handy men?—Exactly.

40376. But it would be idle to say that they have any really practical knowledge of the subject that is supposed to be taught?—Six weeks will only enable the pupils to handle tools, &c., for the first time.

40377. The teaching they get leads to working?—If they drift into farming they will be able to make small gains and finish up other articles in connection with the household.

40378. How many pupils are usually in one of these classes?—From twenty-four to thirty-six.

40379. How much money have they spent on domestic economy?—I could not exactly say.

40380. Could you tell me the proportion between what is spent on domestic economy and manual instruction, and upon live stock schemes, subdivisions of shows, from which scheme the richer portion of the community derives the greatest benefit?—I did not go to the trouble of making up these returns, but I know that every opportunity is given to the small farmers to avail of the home-breeding scheme, because two-thirds of the nominees are devoted to farmers in the lower grade. Therefore, the farmers in the higher grade are excluded to a certain extent; but then, of course, they contribute to the raising of the rate to carry these schemes through, and they are included then, of course, in the scheme. In the County Class we levied a rate of a half-penny in the 2 last year for agricultural and technical instruction, and I believe this year it is three-farthings in the 2.

40381. The results so far justify an increase of the rate?—The County Council were of opinion that no matter how small the results, they were justified in levying a rate of three-farthings.

40382. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I am interested in what you said about these measures. From your statement it would appear that the word co-operative scarcely applies to them so far as these localities are concerned?—Yes.

40383. They are a more private enterprise?—A private enterprise, coming over to this country specialising to advance their own interests.

40384. What attracted your attention in your statement with reference to them is this. You are confident that it is due to their agency, at all events, could farmers were able to acquire stock who otherwise could not stock their land?—Yes; and the reason I mention the intervention of these measures was to show the poverty of the union and their inability to procure the money otherwise to stock their lands.

40385. How is the loan repaid?—It is repaid in milk at the rate of 5 per cent.

40386. That goes to show that however much we may deplore borrowing for the population, yet in the present poor circumstances some system of industrial borrowing had become necessary?—Yes.

June 5, 1907

Mr. Michael
Keeval.

June 8, 1907. 40387. If they had not been allowed to borrow in that way apparently they would not have got on at all?—No.

Mr. Michael
Kearney.

40388. Whatever the details of the scheme may be that is one merit that attaches to the introduction of these crosswaters?—Yes.

40389. Is it the case that where the creamery system prevails there is a tendency to starve the family and not supply them with a sufficient quantity of milk?—I did not hear that stated, but of course I heard it stated that the quality of the separated milk was of the very worst.

40390. In answer to Mr. Kearney, you said that an economic holding about here would be about forty acres; but take one of those small men whose holdings are from five to ten acres; would not the circumstances of such a man be enormously improved if you gave him an addition of five acres of good land?—It would be a great acquisition. With that quantity of land added to his present holding you might have in an economic holding.

40391. I don't wish to suggest that the addition

of five or seven acres would be a satisfactory arrangement, but would not it be a great improvement on his present condition if, leaving him what he already has, you gave him five, six, or seven acres of good land?—Yes.

40392. Getting rid then of the question of economic holdings and economic theories, and coming down to practical life, one of the small occupiers in Clare would be greatly benefited by the addition of a few acres of good land to his present holding?—I would think so.

40393. In the general trend of your evidence then, that while Clare is not scheduled, there are to your knowledge in Kilrush Union districts as much needing the differential treatment of the Congested Districts Board as the districts already scheduled?—Yes. I may mention that I was appointed to give evidence on behalf of the Clare County Council, but when I learned that the Commission had arranged to sit in different parts of the county I thought it sufficient to confine my evidence to the rural district of Kilrush.

Mr. GEORGE CASEY examined.

Mr. George
Casey.

40394. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT (in the Chair).—You are a farmer, Mr. Casey?—Yes.

40395. Where is your farm situated?—At Quilly West.

40396. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What union is that in?—Kilrush union.

40397. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Just give me the particulars of your holding. What is the acreage?—Eighteen acres—a freehold property.

40398. You don't pay rent for it?—No.

40399. Did you buy it?—It is an old estate.

40400. You have got a document, and perhaps you had better read it, and we will ask you anything that occurs?—I am a farmer and publican holding fifteen acres freehold property, and reside at Quilly West, in County Clare. I am familiar with the condition of the fishermen and labourers of my district for the last fifty years. I believe that the fishermen of my district are badly in want of proper accommodation, such as sheds for the shelter of their canoes. Every year there are a few of the canoes broken when the storm comes, as the harbour is very open and affords no shelter.

40401. When you say "canoes," are they small deck boats?—Very small, frail boats.

40402. Are they deck boats?—No; very small boats, with small oars. They are covered with canvas. My view is that the Congested Districts Board should encourage the fishermen in my district by giving them proper boats and gear to go to sea, as their canoes are too small to venture far to sea in.

40403. Just tell me what sort of fishing these small boats do—is it line fishing or net?—Yes, and nets.

40404. They fish for mackerel?—Yes.

40405. In what month?—During the months of autumn, and from that to December.

40406. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is there a harbour at all at Quilly?—Yes, at Seafield pier.

40407. Is there a harbour there now?—It is very shallow. It would require something to be done with it.

40408. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—It is sinking up?—Yes. It is a very good pier, and all the money spent on it will be lost unless there is something done in the cutting of the channel to it.

40409. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are there many fishermen at Quilly?—There are about 150.

40410. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Are the rocks outside the pier?—Just close by it. There was a man drowned when he was coming in there last year. It is very dangerous to the fishermen when they are entering.

40411. Perhaps if the rocks were removed the sea would break with greater force?—It would be a very good thing if they were cut away, and most probable.

40412. You think the shelter would not be reduced

if the rocks were taken away?—There is shelter required for the poor fishermen's canoes besides the cutting of this channel at all. Every year a few of the canoes are torn away by the storm.

40413. Mr. O'KEEFE.—You spoke of 150 fishermen. Do you include the families?—No; the men themselves, young and old.

40414. Would not some of those men belong to the one family?—They may.

40415. How many boats would the 150 men represent?—About 50.

40416. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—That is five men in a boat?—Three in each canoe, and there are about 25, as far as I can learn, in their coming and going in and out there.

40417. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is there a built harbour?—There is a built harbour.

40418. Is there shelter for a sail boat?—Oh, well, it could be made feasible for a sail boat.

40419. And why have not they sail boats, then?—They require them now. They are trying to get them as best they can, and they would work given now if they could only get them. The mouth of the channel is very dangerous in bad weather. The rocks should be cut away, and the channel deepened a few feet. As it is it is very discouraging to the poor fishermen. There was a fisherman drowned coming in there last October, and another a year before. Seafield pier can be encouraged in many ways. If the channel was cut deeper schooners could come in there. There used to be schooners coming in there a few years ago, and through the cutting not being done properly they cannot now.

40420. How far is Seafield from Quilly?—About three-quarters of a mile. There were about eight hundred barrels of mackerel cured there this last autumn season.

Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—That is at Seafield.

40421. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Have the fishermen ever brought before the Fishery Inspector the need to have the approach to the pier at Quilly improved?—They have, my lord.

40422. Was there a correspondence?—There was, my lord, and there was an inspector sent to the pier a few years ago, and even last year, to see could they get something to be done.

40423. What did the inspector say?—That they required more money to have something done with it.

40424. Did they consider that what the fishermen wanted was a good pier?—Yes, they did.

40425. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Do you know was the inspector from the Board of Works?—The Board of Works.

40426. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Of course, you have the advantage there of having a railway?—Yes; it is very close—it is a mile to the pier.

40427. And you think there should be an effort made to develop the fishery there?—Yes; and there is another disadvantage that the fishermen have—that they have to moor their nets and leave them

out oversight and go out to them in the morning, and two or three times in the year it happens that the stern comes while they are out at the morning, and they are drifted away in the morning.

40428. Are they not able to ride by their nets all night?—They cannot fish that way at all.

40429. Could the carcass not be left out?—No; they have to come in and leave the nets there, and then they go out in the morning early to meet their nets, and then the stern comes and the sea gets up, and between that and the morning they are drifted away and thrown on to some other shore, and that happens two or three times in the year.

40430. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—To sum up your evidence, you advocate the cutting away of the rocks to enable the boats to have free passage into the harbour, that some shelter should be built in which the carcass could be protected, and that if possible a few steam trawlers should be brought and let out to fishermen?—Yes, sir. The men are fully inclined to get some new system of fishing besides what we have. The young men are thoroughly inclined, if they could get some small boats, for a new system, and they would have a great advantage if they had a change of system.

40431. At present do they fish for mackerel only?—Yes, for they are fishing in very small boats, and the bank for ling fishing is very far from them.

40432. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—How far?—About fifteen miles away from where they are; but if they had boats they would surely go to the bank.

40433. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Could a trawler net safely at the pier at Quilly?—Yes, and all the money that has been spent will be lost unless something is done to it.

40434. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You have that pier?—Yes.

40435. And you have the railway?—Yes.

40436. How do you account for it that the fishery is not developed more under these favourable circumstances?—The entrance to it is very bad. It is too shallow.

40437. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are the men in the village that one sees at Quilly all fishermen?—About two miles from that all along round there there are more. There is Sandfeld and there is Clonshecky.

40438. But taking Quilly village itself, are those men that live in the cottages fishermen?—Yes; most of them.

40439. They are a large body?—They are a nice little population, and most of them try to be industrious, and there is an industry there, that is to say, the help industry, that I want to draw your attention to.

40440. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Briefly speaking, besides the items of improvement that I have pointed to you you are in favour of getting this district

scheduled if you can under the Congested Districts Board?—Yes, indeed.

40441. And you are probably aware that the Kilrush District Council has passed a resolution to that effect?—Yes. There is the help industry there, too, that is wonderfully put back, from the way it is now.

40442. They have some in this year?—Every year. Time year the help industry in my district is very bad, owing to the want of opposition. There is only one buyer there.

40443. Owing to the want of competition?—Yes, owing to the want of opposition. It is confined to the one company.

40444. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is that Sandfeld and Company?—It is Fairleigh and Company, of Glasgow, that are buying, and they give whatever price they like, and the price they are paying this year is 22 10s. to 23 35s. per ton, and that is not able at all to pay the poor man for his labour. In my view there should be a factory established in the locality for this help industry, as it would give employment to a lot of poor people along the seashore, and prevent them from emigrating to America, and the population along the seashore is about 800, young and old. I remember the help to be paying from 25 to 27 per ton some few years ago. It is not very long at all. There was opposition then, but now the companies have settled with each other. The company that is buying help in this country is very large. They buy all the help in the different counties besides this county. They buy it in other counties along the seashore, and won't let any other company buy but themselves. They supply and give to the other companies a certain amount of help to keep down prices, and the poor people have no profit for their labour. There are about seven or eight hundred tons of help made in my district every year.

40445. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I am sorry to say that the help has lost its value. I am afraid any other competing company would not help you at all. It is not worth more than that now?—These companies were coming in every season some years ago.

Yes, but they found out another way of getting what they wanted.

40446. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You will understand that it is not because there are not more companies competing that the price has gone down. It is because other sources of iodine have been discovered?—Surely, the poor people won't be able to take this help at all, for it does not pay them, and they have no other industry except fishing, and they are wonderfully put back in price. The price is very poor.

40447. The price used to be 250 a ton?—I have not seen that.

40448. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Any other point?—No.

REV. JAMES CLANCY EXAMINED.

40449. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What do you wish to bring before us, Father Clancy?—Some time ago I saw that my name was placed amongst those of witnesses that were to give evidence on behalf of the County Council, and I endeavoured to prepare statistics and heads of evidence, but I afterwards found that a different system was adopted, and there was another representative sent on behalf of the County Council, so I dropped the preparation of my evidence then. However, there were a few points that I heard to-day in consequence of which I would like to give a little evidence on some of the points that were made. In the first place I do not regard the advantages accruing from the Agricultural Department as commensurate with the outlay, and unless there is a very radical change in their methods I do not think that it will be a benefit to the country to have the outlay continued much longer. The system that is adopted generally is to send round a lecturer. The lecturer comes and gives lectures from time to time, and he explains things on a black-board, and if you were a shorthand writer, and took notes, you would have some advantage from it, but otherwise I do not see how an ordinary farmer, that goes to listen to the lecture, can benefit much by it. I have again and again endeavoured to impress upon the Committee the necessity of having agricultural plots to show, what I have called agri-

culture by demonstration, by method. My idea of the way that agriculture ought to be taught is that there would be a plot in some central place, and that notice would be given to all the people in the neighbourhood of the plot that the instructor would come, and that the owner of the plot, under his supervision, would carry out all the steps necessary for the production of crops, and that the people would have an opportunity of seeing each step taken in the agricultural process. Because my idea is that the people of a district in which agriculture is the principal industry require technical education for agriculture just as much as people would require technical education for anything else, and unless each step of the process is shown to them they have no more chance of getting any advantage from seeing merely the results than if a carpenter were to hand a finished chair to an apprentice and say, "That has been made by one of my men."

40450. Your object would be then, I presume, to have a resident instructor there?—I would have a man resident in the county, and I would have him going around in a certain district, and I would have notice given in each district when he would go round, so that the farmers could assemble and see the manner in which tillage should be carried out, and not that he should merely come at the end of the season and show the potatoes growing, and say, "That is what

Rev. James Clancy.

June 8, 1897.

Rev. James
Conry.

can be done by improvement." And even the plots the Department has are not shown, because Mr. Meehan gave evidence, and spoke of a number of plots going on, and now, to give you an idea of what that means, a short time ago a statement was made by an instructor that he had two plots in Moyasta, and I made inquiries among the people of that place, and the people did not know that those plots existed at all. So they got no instruction, and they saw no result, so that up to the present day, after several years, the only result that I can see, the only really tangible results of the agricultural scheme are the payment of salaries, and unless some change is made, and some radical change in the method by which they work the various instruction the County Council would be justified in declining to go on with the scheme much longer, for, as I have said, the results are not commensurate with the outlay.

40452. Is it the County Committee that works with the Department?—Yes.

40453. And they take, I presume, an interest in the people of their own neighbourhood?—Yes, they do.

40454. And this plan of yours being brought under their notice—I have brought the matter of the agricultural plot under their notice.

40455. What reply have you had to that?—They accepted their instructor's idea that all that he had to do was to have the plots filled and to let the people see the results, and that it would not be possible to have advice given to the people in the neighbourhood that he would be there on a certain day to have the thing carried out, so that all that the people can see will be this, that after Mass on a Sunday, say perhaps in the month of July, they will see that there is a good crop of potatoes; but how it has been produced, and by what seeds and methods, they know nothing, and Mr. Godfrey won't tell them.

40456. He won't tell them?—Well, he does not hold it to be part of his duty, and the Committee do not insist upon it to be part of his duty.

40457. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Do they not publish a report at the end of the year?—Yes.

40458. Would not that rather meet your view by showing that by adopting certain methods you arrive at certain conclusions, and there is a certain result, and from listening to one of the lectures would not a farmer understand what to do with regard to certain things, such as the depth of drill, and the width of drill, and a variety of things of that kind that should be adopted under a system of proper tillage?—I hold that the thing should be actually going on under the eyes of the people, and that they should have an opportunity of seeing these things done by the farmer under the direction of the agricultural instructor.

40459. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—It should be done on the class of land that they themselves hold?—Certainly. There should be an ordinary plot, tane, with ordinary land, such as ordinary field and bog, and the instructor should show what can be made of the land such as the people hold.

40460. Mr. STURTEVANT.—Like a demonstration in anatomy?—Precisely.

40461. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Perhaps you were not here when Father Glynn suggested that it might be better even to take a small farm and to work the farm properly in a model way in a particular district?—That is a very good idea, but the objection to that would be, I think, that there should be a great number, and that consequently as the result they would be more expensive. If you take a public farm in Carrigrohilly, that will be very good for the people of Carrigrohilly, but you cannot have one near that again. If you take a plot at Carrigrohilly you would want to do so at other places also.

40462. So far as it would go, the farm would be better?—It would.

40463. It would give more instruction?—Yes.

40464. And in a wide area surrounding, farmers could be better shown how their own farms might be treated?—Certainly.

40465. The objection you mention is a very serious one, of course, but supposing the instruction by means of that farm has gone on at Carrigrohilly or other such places for four or five years might not that farm then be sold at the market price and the instructor then sent on to another locality?—Oh, decidedly.

40466. It would be good as far as it went?—I believe that would be very good. There could be no

question at all of the immense advantage of the suggestion of Father Glynn.

40467. Do you think also that agricultural instruction should be given at the National schools, especially the bigger schools?—Oh, certainly, and it is extraordinary that it has not been adopted long ago.

40468. Do you think it is desirable, in an agricultural country, that boys should close their school career without having been brought into contact with practical agriculture at the school?—I think it is indispensable.

40469. Do you not think it would be a good thing to have a practical teaching of agriculture?—Yes; in an agricultural country like Ireland, in which almost the sole industry is agriculture, everything possible should be done to give the people instruction in every way that it could be given to those who are to make their livelihood by it. Now, with regard to the fishermen, there are about ten boats in Killybegs, and eight boats in Colleen and Cullybeg, that is, in the parish I come from, and they are the ordinary salmon, myrecks, and there is a crew of three for each boat, and one of the considerations that I would suggest would be technical instruction to the fishermen in the most improved and up-to-date methods of curing their fish.

40470. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Of curing their fish?—Yes, so as to place them properly on the market; and I have been informed that the methods in other fishing countries, like Norway and others, are more up-to-date than ours for curing, and consequently, when the fish are sent to America, which is the great market for mackerel, which is the principal fish taken here, the price given for the Irish article is much lower than that given for mackerel cured by approved methods.

40471. I thought Irish-cured mackerel fetched the highest price in America?—Well, I have been informed not.

40472. Perhaps you are not quite so up-to-date in your curing as other parts of the country are, but can you give me an idea at all as to the amount of mackerel exported from here. Is it a regular export trade—what happens the mackerel—is it half-salted?—When the mackerel is caught here it is generally sold on the spot to dealers.

40473. And cured as the catch comes in?—Yes; and I think these dealers cure the mackerel and export it to America.

40474. They cure it here on the spot?—Yes. You have got evidence of one mackerel buyer to-day, Mr. Murray, who buys fish in Killybegs neighbourhood, and I think he buys it as it comes from the net, and exports it to America.

40475. It is his business, not the fishermen's business?—I have seen the fishermen themselves curing it, but I cannot say exactly whether it is cured by the fishermen or whether he does it afterwards.

40476. Mr. STURTEVANT.—The probability is that he buys the fish fresh and cures it himself?—Yes. Now, with regard to another point, it is difficult to cope with congestion when we have no unoccupied land for the purpose of enlargement of holdings.

40477. Out towards Loop Head?—No; nor in Killybegs, nor in Killybegs.

40478. But in the county there is?—There is about Barron, and there is in North Clare; but in our immediate neighbourhood there is practically no unoccupied land for any practical purpose, at least for the purpose of grappling with the problem of congestion in their immediate neighbourhood; and therefore I lay more stress on improved methods of agriculture.

If there is to be improvement in the condition of the place it must be by the people making the most of the land they actually have, because I am afraid it is out of the question that they can have more land; and therefore, I advocate that more care should be bestowed on teaching the people to make the most of the land they actually have. Now, in Killybegs there is a great market for certain kinds of agricultural produce, potatoes, eggs, butter, and all kinds of table vegetables; but unfortunately for one reason or another the people around Killybegs do not attend to the supplying of the wants of the six or seven thousand visitors who are in Killybegs in the months of July, August, and September; and I think that a very good outlet for whatever body will be the result of this Commission will be to teach the people in the neighbourhood of a place like Killybegs how to produce these vegetables, and how to place

other things of the kind on the market, and generally throughout West Clare, to teach the people to make the most of the land they have by up-to-date methods.

40470. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are the lands round Killoe held in very small holdings?—Well, not very small, but generally small.

40480. About what sort of valuation is there of the holdings there, would you say?—Well, the land round Killoe is of a rather poor quality, of a very poor quality. As I have said, I was not expecting to give evidence to-day, and I did not make myself up on the statistics that I might.

40481. I do not want statistics, but I mean are the holdings large enough to be able to be converted into market gardens, and that sort of thing?—Yes.

40482. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—At Killoe there is a special demand?—Yes.

40483. Even if no special demand existed, do you not think that if improved cultivation and tillage prevailed throughout the County Clare, tillage would be the best economic use of that peninsula going out towards Loop Head?—Oh, certainly.

40484. There is very little tillage in it now?—Very little. And along with that the means of transport, and if possible help from some outside source like the Department to enable the people to put their produce on the market; I think it would be well if there could be co-operation in that direction by means of which under an official of the Department a number of farmers would bulk their produce and put it on the market to the best advantage. As each one is at present trying to do, it is an uneconomic business, and they are tired of asking for greater facilities in the way of railway transport.

40485. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—If you had to frame an agricultural scheme for the county, what changes would you make in the present system?—Well, principally in the introduction to a greater extent of practical demonstration.

40486. Would you carry on this agricultural scheme of bulls, and stallions, and poultry, and such like?—Yes, I see no objection to that, but with regard to the poultry, I think the finding of a market for the poultry is a very important thing. That has not been so well carried out in Clare as in other places.

40487. You are dependent on local buyers?—Yes.

40488. But the agricultural instructor you take exception to?—Yes, particularly.

40489. Mr. MERRILL said it had been only in operation for two years?—Yes.

40490. Could you see much improvement in two years?—Not the slightest.

40491. Could you expect to see much improvement in two years?—No, I could not, and I could not expect to see improvement in forty years if things are allowed to go on in the way they are.

40492. But you have an agricultural instructor?—Yes.

40493. And do you think that he knows the climate and soil?—I have no doubt that he does, and he ought to know Clare very well. I do not question his ability to do it at all, but I do not think that either he or the committee look upon the question in the same light that I do, namely, that you should put it on a different footing altogether, but at any rate my idea is that lecturing at the present stage is practically useless, that it is a waste of money.

40494. Lecturing by itself?—Yes, lecturing by itself; and that if you want to have the people properly instructed you must come down and show them how to handle a plot the same as you would teach a man to make a boat or make a chair, and that what the people require to get is an opportunity of seeing the work actually going on. That would be demonstration by method and not mere lecturing.

40495. That is the only change you would make in the instruction?—The main change, because the thing that has struck me most, and that I have given most attention to is the absolute futility of all the schemes so far to improve agriculture by means of lectures.

40496. We have already had a great many witnesses who have given evidence about the scheme of the Department and the local committee, but no evidence from anybody that has prepared an ideal scheme of business. You have apparently gone into the matter, and you object to the agricultural instruction without demonstration plots?—Yes, and demonstration plots in which the work will be done under

the eyes of the people, where they can see it actually in progress.

40497. Take the other side of the question, then, the girls. Have you any suggestion to make?—Well, I have not thought out that part of it, but I may say that in the part of the country that I am particularly acquainted with, about Killoe, I am sorry to say that the girls do not take advantage of the classes in laundry and in cooking. I know that for the last two years or so we have had no class of cooking and laundry at Killoe, for the simple reason that when the classes were introduced they were held there twice, and it was practically the same girls that attended and in rather smaller numbers.

40498. Was there any reason for that, or could that be remedied?—I do not think so. I did everything in my power by going about amongst them and trying to urge them to come, but they did not come.

40499. Is there any lace industry at Killoe?—Except that they work locally. They learn it at the convent, and they try to dispose of their work by their friends without anything like co-operation. And Killoe is especially favoured in that way because so many visitors come, and there is a good market there for Irish crochet. But there is nothing like such a school of lace as exists in other places.

40500. Has it never been tried?—Never.

40501. Have you noticed any particular effects from co-operation on the domestic life of the people?—Well, we have no co-operation in the immediate neighbourhood here, but I have heard people say that they rather tend to make the people looser about the creameries when they go with the milk. And then people also allege that it is attended by deterioration of the calves; but I think that is the fault of the farmers themselves and not the fault of the creamery, because the farmers know perfectly well that separated milk is not a proper food.

40502. And you have no village dairies?—No.

40503. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—And you think that the introduction of creameries has had a tendency to put the land out of cultivation in order to increase grazing facilities?—I have no experience of that in my own neighbourhood, and so I will not commit myself to make the statement.

40504. In what way is it that you have had no experience?—No creamery.

40505. But you have had experience of the land going out of cultivation, I presume?—Oh, yes.

40506. And what is the reason of that?—I think a large number of families in the west of Clare have friends in America, and the young fellows look to a life in America rather than to a life at home, and won't settle down doggedly to make the most of the land.

40507. And which is the reason—is it because the young fellows have gone away, or because those remaining behind take no interest in the land?—Both. I may just mention one instance of a deplorable fact, which might easily be remedied if there were a proper spirit amongst the people. I knew a man in this neighbourhood—he happens to be a brother of my own—who up to a month ago had sold a large quantity of potatoes to the neighbouring farmers; and I think it an appalling thing that farmers who have more land than he has should pay 5d. and 6d. a stone for potatoes when they might have grown potatoes for themselves. So that unless something is done to change the ideas and methods of the people and teach them better methods, and give them a greater interest in the land, I do not think there can be much improvement. And I attribute the land going out of cultivation to the fact that these young fellows, looking forward to America, won't work here while they are waiting to go to America and that those remaining behind are generally the weaker portion of the family. The pick of the family will go to America, and those remaining behind do not appear to have the grit to work the farm.

40508. And they might anticipate going to America at a later period?—Yes.

40509. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—These farms that go out of cultivation, what happens to them—do they become derelict?—They go out of cultivation in the sense that they do not till them. That is what I mean. They go out of tillage.

40510. There is another point with regard to the starting of local industries?—Oh, yes, with regard to the starting of local industries, for my own part, I disagree with a great deal of what I hear about the

June 8, 1905.
Rev. James
Clancy.

June 5, 1907.

Mr. James
Clancy.

starting of local industries. I think as a general rule the starting of local industries goes on a wrong principle and they generally fail, with the result that you will have people pointing to this as a reason why people should not touch industries at all. Now, my idea about industries is that you can never have anything in the line of an industry successful unless it is taken up on strictly commercial and not philanthropic principles, and unless you have men of business experience putting their capital into it to such an extent that they will have an interest in making the thing pay. If you have people starting an industry with capital, say, of £10,000, and managed by people who have no business training, and very often who will not have more than £10 or £200 in it, I think those things are almost bound to fail, and I do not join in the cry that the Government ought to subsidise local industries of that kind.

40511. The question is whether the Government might go so far as this—that when the conditions of a neighbourhood point to a new industry being able to get on if once started, and there is not at the moment capital available to start it, the Government might consider whether it was worth while, after due inquiry, to start the industry on the assumption that once started it can pay its way!—Certainly.

40512. There can be no question whatever that you cannot keep a permanent industry going unless that permanent industry is self-supporting, and the question is whether it is possible to give a little help to start the industry, which, once on its legs, can pay its way!—So far as I can see of those actually started, I think they are started on a principle that almost certainly leads to failure, that you have not

men of experience going into them, and you have not men of capital going into them, and you have not men of commercial experience sufficiently interested in them who will take off their coats to the work.

40513. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—This is a matter that I have no doubt you can speak of from your own experience. May I ask you this question then—Do you know any industry that has been started in Ireland on the philanthropic grounds that you have mentioned that has permanently succeeded?—I do not.

40514. Well, that is an answer to the whole question!—I do not. We hear a great deal about the success of the Forford tweeds.

40515. What about the Forford industry?—I am not sufficiently acquainted with that. I believe that was started to some extent on philanthropic principles, but then one swallow does not make a summer.

40516. Do you know any other?—I do not.

40517. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—None has come under your notice?—I know of none which has to any extent affected the industrial aspect of the neighbourhood.

40518. Then, really, the sum of your evidence, as you have given it to us to-day is that what you have to recommend is the practical instruction of the people in agriculture?—Yes.

40519. When I say practical, I mean instruction in the actual processes in which agriculture is carried on?—Yes, and agriculture to meet the people in every place they turn, at school and everything of the kind, because that is what they will make their livelihood out of. And that is the principal thing I came to say.

Mr. THOMAS K. DALY examined.

Mr. Thomas
K. Daly.

40520. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you live, Mr. Daly?—Kilmarney, Co. Wick.

40521. That is in the district of Kilrush?—Kilrush and towards Miltown-Maley.

40522. Are you a farmer?—I am a farmer's son, and I assist my father in his farming occupation. I am a land valuer and surveyor.

40523. Tell us what you wish to bring before us?—With reference to agriculture and technical instruction, I would say that there should be one school at least in every parish to give instruction in agriculture alone. I do not believe demonstrations or lectures would be much good, because I know that of the people who go to these lectures very few go away from them with retain any part of them. These people have very little education, and they go away from these lectures without having derived any good in the world from them. I believe in having in every parish one school where boys of the sixth standard could attend, and only boys of that standard or boys who are not able to remain any longer at school, where they would be taught agriculture.

40524. You would have an agricultural school in every parish?—Yes, and funds devoted to other objects at present should be devoted to that agricultural school.

40525. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Should it not be grafted on the common school, because it would be very expensive to set up a special school in each parish?—I do not think that would be the proper way, because the whole time of the school should be devoted to agriculture, for boys of the sixth standard, or those whose parents can't afford to keep them at the elementary school any longer.

40526. Did you hear the proposal of Father Glynn that an agricultural plot might be established in connection with each school, and that one teacher ought to be capable of giving instruction in the school. Would not that do?—Well, I do not think it would, because you would have to instruct every teacher in agriculture. I would confine it to one school in the parish. It would take a long time to instruct all the teachers now in this country in agricultural matters, and I fancy there are very few of them who have even a preliminary idea of agriculture.

40527. But there are a great many parishes in Ireland?—The funds necessary would be abstracted from other purposes and devoted to other agricultural purposes.

40528. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—You would have a central school?—A central school.

40529. It would be a great improvement on the present conditions?—Oh, I think so. The people are very backward. Then there is the County Council not carrying out its business properly with regard to the direct labour scheme. There are some large farmers employed where there should be only poor labourers. Large farmers' children are employed on some works, and I do not know why they are employed instead of labourers. They are employed in place of labourers in positions of trust and salaries. I think myself that those employments should be thrown open to the small holders under £5 valuation by lottery. I would only have small farmers under £5 valuation drawn by lot for the work, and have each road divided into mile sections, and let the chairman and secretary and surveyor of the County Council put the bids for those roads and sections, and divide them out among the people under £5 valuation each year to maintain the roads.

40530. Instead of doing it by contract?—Well, I would do it on contract, and I would defer them from the making of his next year if they did not carry it out according to their contract.

40531. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Is there no contract labour at present?—They are under the County Council.

40532. And would you suggest a return to the contract system, and limit the contractors to men under £5 valuation?—Yes.

40533. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Do you think a man of under £5 valuation would be able to carry out such a contract?—If it was divided into sections. Our district might have 140 mile sections of road. There might be twice as many applications. I would not limit it to a mile; perhaps two in certain districts, according to price. I think it would relieve the families of those poor people considerably, and I do not think that the State should interfere at all. They have plenty to interfere with.

40534. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you mean that two or three of these small holders should join together to take a contract to maintain a piece of road, or would you give to each small holder a half-mile of road to keep?—I would give each person a section, say a section of an Irish mile, divide the roads into sections, and let the county surveyor or his officials, or the chairman or secretary of the County

Council hold a lottery for the names of those holders of under 25 valuation, and divide them out by lot.

40535. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would you have any competition?—By lottery. They could not all get them.

40536. Who would fix the remuneration?—The county surveyor. They have a scale adopted at present. I believe they have adapted the prices that existed for the last three years in which the Grand Jury held the roads.

40537. That makes it intelligible?—Yes.

40538. And the cost is already ascertained?—Yes.

40539. And you would allot the employment in the way you suggest?—Yes.

40540. And let each work a mile of road?—Yes.

40541. At the old prices?—Yes.

40542. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Who does the work now?—It is done by the County Council.

40543. Where do they get their labourers?—Some of the labourers are children of small farmers, and some children of big farmers are employed.

40544. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is it done by contract?—It is mostly direct labour now. It was formerly done by contract.

40545. And now the district surveyor superintends the work, and it is done by hired labour?—No; there is a special staff of overseers employed at considerable expense to the county.

40546. But they do it by hired labour?—Yes.

40547. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—But you are only substituting one class of labour for another?—I think it will do better, because you have very few really bona fide labourers in the county. They are all small farmers' children.

40548. Does not contract labour give employment to holders under 25 valuation?—Well, I believe so, but I think that would be a better system and more independent. They would be their own contractors, and they would give greater satisfaction, and there would be no influence to get billets.

40549. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You say that the sons of the bigger farmers get employment?—Yes. June 3, 1900.
Mr. Thomas
K. Daly.

40550. To the exclusion of men of greater need?—I believe so.

40551. Was there under the Grand Jury the old contract system?—Yes.

40552. And have the County Council departed from that?—Yes.

40553. For the last two years?—For the last two years.

40554. And I suppose on representations made to them?—Yes.

40555. Mr. KAVANAGH.—To give employment?—To give employment. Well, about the bay at Seafeld, there is a channel cut through the rock for 100 feet, and I believe that should be improved.

40556. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What is the place?—Seafeld Pier. It is the principal fishing station on the west coast of Clare.

40557. Is this about a mile from Quilly?—About a mile and a quarter, and it is the only pier except Lisnaskea, and there is a circular rock at the entrance outside, and it is very dangerous.

40558. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think a witness told us that an inspector of the Board of Works had been down to examine and report on it?—Yes, but it appears that nothing is done.

40559. But it is rather an awkward job to carry out?—It would not be very expensive. In fact, the Board of Works people were round recently, and this rock could be very easily removed.

40560. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you think that the waves would come in with greater fury if the rock were removed?—It is on the northern side that the waves strike it, and then the recoil of the waves if they catch any boat would surely destroy it.

40561. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is Seafeld north or south of Quilly?—South of Quilly.

The Commission adjourned.

EIGHTY-FIRST PUBLIC SITTING.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7TH, 1907.

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK A.M.

At the Temperance Hall, Scariff, County Clare.

Present:—The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B. (in the Chair); Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; COMOR O'KELLY, Esq., M.P.; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., B.L.; ANGELO SUTHERLAND, Esq., C.R.; and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

June 7, 1907.

Rev. J. Halpin.

Rev. J. HALPIN, Scariff, examined.

40562. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Father Halpin, you are the Parish Priest of Scariff?—Yes.

40563. I see you have got some notes of the points you wish to bring before the Commission, and the best way will be instead of my asking you a series of questions for you to make such a statement as you desire, and then we will ask you any questions that occur to us—I want to say something to the Commission on behalf particularly of the parish of Scariff that I am interested in, and I think the parish of Scariff is representative to a large extent of the country in this part of Clare, the Northeast of Clare. As far as I understand, the object and the nature of the Congested Districts Board and its work in other parts of the country. I would say in general that I think it is desirable that its operations should be extended to this part of Clare. I have made some inquiries within the last few days about the class of waste that particularly concern this area that I deal with, and I think, considering the nature of the country round here, that your work is very much required for a good part of this parish and of the neighbouring parishes. In the first place, in reference to the land, there is a good part of this district, the northern part, that is a mountainous class of country, reclaimed mountain principally, and some of the townlands are certainly in a congested condition in the ordinary sense of congestion; that is to say, that considering the circumstances of the class of land and of the size of the holdings, I think it is necessary to do something for the people in order to give them an opportunity of being able to live in comparative comfort. In other words, I would say with regard to some of the townlands I have before my mind here, that passing by the question of rent altogether, and in fact if there was no rent at all or no instalments to be paid, I believe that in some places in this part of the country the people could hardly live in comfort, and that the holdings are uneconomic in that way. I have looked at the legal definition of a congested district, and your Secretary has kindly given me the legal definition of a congested district and the conditions necessary to make a district congested, and, as far as I know, the townlands or districts that I refer to would be congested districts even in that sense. I have taken one as a type. It is called Gortadern, a parish in the Union of Scariff.

40564. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—In what diocesan division?—Clonsilla. I have taken the number of families and the area of the division.

40565. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Where is it from here?—It is about four or five miles. I have got a list (produced), and without taking any time by reading it, I say the average valuation per head would be only 18s., and that there are 35 of them in that townland of less than 30s. valuation per head.

40566. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Can you give me some idea of the extent of this townland—do you know how many holdings there are on it altogether?—We have got eighteen families, and the holdings are to a large extent mountainous. So that would give you an idea of the land that some of them are in. It is to a large extent mountain land.

40567. And the mountain land is used for pasture?—For pasture.

40568. Is it held in common or is it included in the holding of each occupier?—It is included in the holding of each occupier and perhaps in some instances the mountain may be held in common. That will be a type of some other districts and townlands, and perhaps more generally of Congested District divisions, and of the country beyond that.

40569. Let us take up this at the point you have arrived at. You say there are eighteen families in the townland you have mentioned now?—Yes.

40570. And I suppose we may take that at the ordinary, allowing five people to a family?—Well, in some cases they are very much larger.

40571. A population of 150 in eighteen families—about six to a family?—Yes. Now I need not say so much about the land question, because there will be other witnesses.

40572. I am afraid we must just complete that. You said that the valuation per head amounted to 18s. Is that 18s. and a fraction?

40573. That is taking the entire townland?—Yes, as far as I got the return. I asked one of them themselves to get a return for me, and they gave me that. Now about the land in the townland, before leaving the land question I would like to say that I think that your Board could do a great deal for people in districts of that kind.

40574. Do you think that the Congested Districts Board could?—Your Board, generally. If it was scheduled I believe you could help the people in such a district.

40575. To make it quite clear, I would ask you to bear in mind that the Board you are addressing now is not the Congested Districts Board, but the Commission; and therefore when you say "your Board" there is a little confusion?—My point is this, that I consider the principal question to be considered would be whether the district is to be scheduled, and whether you might extend the operations of the Board to this district, and my point is that I believe that if this district were scheduled the Congested Districts Board could do a great deal for a townland of that kind, and in the first place I would say that if it were found that the holdings were uneconomic and such that the people could not find a decent living on them, migration would be the remedy in a great many instances, and for those that remained, assistance to improve their holdings, if that be within the ordinary means adopted, and perhaps by some means to subsidize what they got from their holdings by giving more employment in the district by some means that will be suggested later on.

40576. Have you considered at all the question of migration?—Well, to some extent, with regard to where there is a townland in which, from the extent of the holdings and the nature of the land and other circumstances, we are forced to the conclusion that you cannot make the people comfortable. It seems to me that it is evident that you must migrate some of the families. If you have ten families in a townland like that, and it is plain, from a full consideration of all the facts, from the nature of the land and the size of the holdings and so forth, what you cannot get the means of subsistence for ten

families, then the only remedy that I can see is to take out two or three or four of those holdings and enlarge the other holdings; and if after that you find that the reduced number of families does not seem to get on without assistance, then, if you will, try to assist them—there are various ways.

40577. Let us keep for one moment to that question of migration, because it is a very serious question. Do you mean migration to a neighbouring townland or do you mean migration to another part of the country?—Yes, either. If the first were feasible, by all means. If you have no land available, then to some other part of the country. And sometimes the people prefer to stay in their own locality, but I do not think that sentiment would guide them altogether in that respect.

40578. That was the first question I was going to ask you. Have you discussed it at all with any of those families, and have you found any willingness in them to be migrated—let us face the difficulty fully—to another part of the country?—Well, I was speaking the other day to a gentleman who will give evidence here, who was the late Chairman of the County Council, and he is also a valuer of land, and he will probably touch on that subject, and several other subjects more or less connected with land, and he is brought into connection with a great many people of the class we are speaking of. He said that he found people volunteering to go elsewhere, people living in poor districts and seeing that their surroundings did not hold out any hope of their condition being improved, that they were willing to go elsewhere. I do not think that the people will make any difficulty.

40579. Do you mean that the people will be ready to go?—The people will be ready to go to a better place, if they get it.

40580. And have you considered at all the difficulty at the other end—do you think that the surrounding occupiers, probably not quite content with the extent of their holdings in other parts of the country, would either welcome or would even render possible the intrusion (I do not mean intrusion in the offensive sense, but as they would look upon it) of people from other districts of the country into the locality in which they are living?—That difficulty might arise, and I suppose in some cases it does, and I suppose in some cases it has been got over—but I think it ought to be and it must be, because in the localities you contemplate there may not be other people whose wants are like the wants of the people with whom we are dealing. They may be a middling class of farmer, with thirty or forty acres of land, and I consider that the man with ten acres of land is to be considered more than the man with forty acres. And, although he may be a stranger in the electoral division, I do not think he is a stranger in Ireland, and we would not be justified in drawing boundaries.

40581. I quite agree with you that we would not be justified, but I am asking you from the practical point of view, whether you think that a man brought from one part of the country, or from a neighbouring county, and put down in another part of the country, would find his life tolerable. That is the position, not whether we think it justifiable. I should not think it justifiable, speaking for myself, but what is the practical difficulty in the case? Of course if migration is possible on a large scale a very considerable difficulty would be got over; but I confess that the evidence we have heard throughout has not been very encouraging upon that point. First of all, there is the natural indisposition of the man to move from the people among whom he is living; and secondly a great indisposition on the part of the man who regard him almost as a foreigner, that he should be brought in, to the exclusion, perhaps, of the son of a tenant. I just wanted to make that plain?—Now, I was going to say that I do not intend to say much on the land question proper, and I am sure that a great deal of what might be said about the land round here and its conditions and circumstances would be similar to what you have heard elsewhere in Ireland—that the wants of the people and the condition of the land would be something of the same kind; and, secondly, because some of the gentlemen who will follow, and especially the representative of the County Council, who have a great deal of experience of land, and I would like to leave a great many of those questions about the land to him. But there are one or two points that I would like to speak upon that perhaps

might have some interest in reference to the land question, that I could say in a sentence or two, and that appear to me to be practical. Well, in this immediate neighbourhood we have purchased more than half the land.

40582. You mean the tenants?—Yes, the tenants have purchased. I believe that it certainly is, from what I see, most desirable that the other properties should be purchased as soon as they can be fairly and reasonably, and also that the evicted tenants should be reinstated. We have got some evicted tenants, and I think that before we come to speak of any other things, such as local industries, the land question seems to be blocking the way to a great extent, because people seem to be incapable of turning their thoughts to anything but the land question, so that as we are told sometimes that the Irish question blocks the way across the water, I am afraid that the land question blocks all other questions that we have here.

40583. Give us some information as to the purchase of land in your district. You say something like half of the land has been purchased—I think more than half of this parish has been purchased.

40584. Under the 1903 Act?—Yes, the late Act—some under that Act and some before that Act, under the Ashbourne Act. And I may say also that the prices of course here, as elsewhere, have been enhanced since the passing of the new Act.

40585. Have you got one or two concrete instances of that? It is very interesting. Let us have an illustration case under the Ashbourne Act?—Yes. Within the last few days we have had a case within the Ashbourne Act. The Fitzgerald property, which is just bordering Scariff, was purchased at, I think, seventeen years' purchase, or thereabouts.

40586. The whole property?—The whole property. Yes, it is seventeen years' purchase.

40587. That was before there was a judicial rent?—No; first-term rents. Well, even before that we had another property purchased at fourteen years' purchase in Poulogan.

40588. What time was that?—About twelve or fifteen years ago, under the Ashbourne Act also. Poulogan is the name of the townland. That was fourteen years' purchase, and Mr. Fitzgerald's property adjoining Scariff was sold at seventeen years' purchase of first-term rents.

40589. I suppose at the time of the previous purchase that you gave as fourteen years' purchase, there would be no judicial rents?—I am not quite sure of that now. I think there were first-term rents. Well, since the last Act, in a great many cases, the prices are twenty-one, twenty-two, and twenty-three years' purchase, or thereabouts.

40590. Give us one concrete instance, one case?—There is Mr. Starpole's case. That was twenty-one or twenty-three.

40591. Second-term rents?—There were first and second-term rents on that. I do not know whether there are any Starpole's tenants here, but the purchase was about that number of years.

40592. First and second?—First and second. It would be about that at least. In any case it is true that there has been a considerable difference between the price of land since the passing of the last Act and the price that was realised here in some of the cases, 17 years' purchase and 14 years' purchase.

40593. That is even without taking account of the bonus?—Yes, without taking account of the bonus.

40594. Mr. BUCHANAN.—Have you finished that comparison—you have given us 17 years' purchase?

40594a. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Can you tell us the last purchase that was made?—Well, Mr. Mowland's is not complete yet. I believe it is 20½ and 22½.

40595. In each of those cases the entire estate has been purchased?—Yes; the intention is to sell the entire estate.

40596. And have the landlords in all the cases, or in any of the cases that you have mentioned, retained the demesne and residence?—Well, in the case of Mr. Mowland they have retained the demesne, of course. Mr. Mowland's property is at Tuomyway. Mr. Starpole is not resident in this parish, but Mrs. Kinn.

40597. And the other gentleman's name is Mr. Mowland?—Mowland, yes; he has retained the residence. A friend of his is living there at present.

June 7, 1871.

Mr. J.
Hulgan.

40598. Is the demesne of any size, do you know?—Yes, the demesne is of a pretty large size. But I may say that there are typical cases. They do not appear to be greater than the prices generally. They are typical of the present prices in Clare and elsewhere, and I only quote them because they are cases that occur here at present.

40599. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—With regard to those who have purchased longest, those who purchased under the Ashbourne Act, do you say that there has been an improvement in their condition in consequence of the purchase?—I would say so. Generally speaking, where they have purchased there is a decided and immediate change for the better. What I call the magic of ownership shows itself immediately.

40600. That is to say, they have improved the holdings?—They have improved their holdings and they have improved their houses; and as a concrete example of that in particular, one of your members, his lordship the Bishop, walking yesterday coming along the road, saw a property that had been bought, and it seemed to be immensely struck with the appearance of the holdings. One of the cottages was kept in such a style that they got a price of £3 or £4 or £5 from the County Council for the manner in which they kept their holding and kept the farm.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I have not seen more beautiful homesteads.

40601. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Were these prizes given by the County Council or County Committee?—There was a scheme here, practically a county scheme, to give prizes for the keeping of the homestead and the farm generally, and I was glad to see that a couple of our people got prizes for the way in which their houses were kept. I do not say that with persons of that kind there was not taste as well as improvement even before the purchase; but, ordinarily speaking, the magic of ownership shows itself immediately—the improved methods and in the appearance of the farms everywhere.

40602. That is your own experience?—Yes; but, of course, there will be exceptions in the case of *refractory* no matter what you do.

40603. Can you give me an idea of what sort of a reduction of rent has been the result of these purchases?—Say, 6s. in the pound—between 5s. and 6s., and from that to 7s. or 8s. in the pound.

40604. And what is about the size of these holdings as a rule?—Well, the better class, thirty or forty acres of land. That holding that your lordship admitted last evening was only about twenty, and their reduction will be only £3 or £4 or £5; and as to this cottage, you might take a photograph of it.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—They have got a £3 10s. price, but by my thinking, any price that was available would be deserved by the aspect of the homestead.

40605. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say that a reduction of 5s. or 6s. in the pound is the net result of the reduction of rent on the purchase that has taken place here?—Perhaps, about that.

40606. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—How many years have these people been proprietors?—Well, the first, the principal reduction that I spoke of, would be twelve or fourteen years ago, because I am here ten years, and the purchase was effected some years before, and I may say it is twelve or fourteen years, and there has been a decided reduction in the meantime.

40607. And there is a shorter term of repayment?—Yes, and I think there are also a great many advantages under the Ashbourne Act that make it more desirable, because I was concerned in effecting the purchase on the Fitzgerald property before the new Act came along, and I believe that the bulk of the tenants thought themselves fortunate in having secured their purchases before the new Act became law.

40608. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Just let me ask you this question upon that. Taking the whole of the present concerns under these different purchases, should you say that as regards their families it had had any effect at all upon emigration—when these men found their position somewhat more comfortable, their wages or annual payments somewhat reduced, and their possibilities of getting on in decent comfort somewhat improved—should you say that that had to any extent affected the emigration of their sons and daughters?—Well, I would say that it has to some extent, but not to any very large extent, till we

subside the farmer or give him some other industry; but to some extent it would be in this way, that when a farmer would find himself better off and able to spare the money he might be encouraged to keep his son or daughter at home, whereas formerly he might think his son if he emigrated would have more chance of settling down to some industrial work than by living in Ireland. However, the margin of improvement would not be very much, but in some cases it would have that effect, and I think that so far it would, but not very largely. And that reminds me of a point that I was thinking of making before leaving the land question, and it is this—without going into any details, because I am leaving details to some of the gentlemen who know more about the details of land—that notwithstanding the reductions of rent that have been made for the last twenty-five years or so, and reductions of payment after that by purchase, I must say that though the reductions have been considerable, taken in themselves, and although the effects are visible naturally in the way that I have pointed out, that where people have holdings of their own they naturally and instinctively, as well as their sons and daughters, take a greater interest in the holding, and are more thrifty than they were before or could be expected to be before, and still, although that is true and although the effects are visible in the appearance of the houses and perhaps in a better system of agriculture, still, viewing the financial result generally, I would say that the result is not at all what we might expect from the changes that have taken place within the last twenty-five years, both in reductions of rent first and afterwards in reductions of payment by the purchase; and I think that in looking at it generally, an important matter to ask the causes of.

40609. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You mean that the financial condition of the people has not advanced, but gone back?—It has not advanced, at least, proportionately, to the reduction of the payments, and it has not advanced perhaps also absolutely.

40610. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You mean to say that they have not more money?—Yes. And I have asked myself the question how that is accounted for, because in some cases the payments now are not half what they were twenty-five or thirty years ago, and it is a remarkable thing if you find one man having more money in the bank than he had twenty-five years ago. There must be some cause, and I have found two or three causes. Some of them suggested themselves to myself. Others I have found from practical farmers, and I thought it would be useful and acceptable if I gave you some of those two or three causes which operate both in this district and elsewhere, to explain why a man who is only paying half what he paid twenty-five years ago is not better off now. Well, in the first place, amongst those causes is this, that prices have deteriorated, not only of cattle, but of all farm produce. Everything that the farmer of Clare has been able to produce has gone down proportionately. I have been asking how the reduction of price in the case of farm produce bears in proportion to the reduction that you have got both in the Land Courts and as the result of purchase, and perhaps generally they would say that the one thing kept *pari passu* with the other, and that in itself would be sufficient to account for it; but I was speaking to a practical farmer in the last few days—

40611. Let us pause at that for a moment. You say that the price of cattle has gone down. Has not the price of cattle gone down for the last twenty-five or thirty years?—Yes, and gone down so much that I am told it would be sufficient, together with the deterioration of other things, in itself to account for the phenomenon that I have just pointed out to you just now. A person told me that it would be as easy to pay the higher rents of twenty-five years ago with the prices that they got for their cattle at the fair of Scariff as it is to pay the present rents with the present prices of cattle and the reduced prices of butter, corn, and so forth.

40612. Is the price of butter reduced?—Oh, yes; every article of farm produce has been reduced for the past twenty-five years, and I think that that is a sufficient explanation.

40613. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Yes, if it were the fact—I think there is no doubt in the world that the price of farm produce generally has gone down, but

whether in each particular item I could not vouch; but you will have practical tenant farmers after me, and I think they will vouch every single thing. Now, I asked a person within the last few weeks, and he said that it would be as easy to pay the higher rents of twenty-five years ago, and the only example he gave was the price of stone cattle then and the price of calves, and he gave me the items, which I have not seen; but he seemed to be satisfied that the reduction in prices would be quite sufficient explanation of the question that is before me.

40634. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You have specified two sources of income in which a reduction has occurred. One is cattle. Is the other butter?—Butter.

40635. It is well known that the price of butter is less than it was twenty-five years ago?—Yes.

40636. And the price of cattle?—And the price of cattle also.

40637. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—They produce more?—I think other witnesses will be able to go through the figures of the matter, but I take it that it is perfectly well known, and I do not think it necessary to give you the figures.

40638. Are not some of the purchasers putting their capital into the holding now more than they did before, so that it is there?—Yes; that is, some of the purchase people.

40639. Yes, a man who has purchased the land spends his money in improving the property, and that goes on necessarily, and if he were to sell that afterwards he would realise the whole of it and be a richer man. Do you think they consider that in any way?—I do not think there is any intention to sell now in the way you speak of.

40640. As to the emigration that the Chairman spoke of, would not the increased exertions of the tenant for the improvement of the holding keep his sons at home, who would otherwise emigrate?—Yes, that might have some effect?—Yes, but I also mentioned that if the status of the tenant purchaser was improved he would be more disposed to keep his children at home who would otherwise emigrate. If he saw better prospects in the future he might be more disposed in some few instances to keep a boy or girl at home who would emigrate otherwise.

40641. Sir FRANCIS MURRAY.—Just let me draw your attention to this, that the question I asked and that you put forward yourself was whether the reduction of rent had materially assisted the farmer financially, and the first of such reductions of rent which you mentioned to us took place under the Ashbourne Act consequently during the last twelve or thirteen years?—Yes.

40642. Therefore whether that helped him, or did not better him thirteen years ago does not depend on the price of farm produce forty or fifty years ago, but whether it has fallen off since those rents were reduced. Well, I should say that that is not so, surely, in the case of cattle in the last twelve years, but I dare say you locally know much better than I do that really the better trade had been almost ceased during that last twelve years, and Irish butter sells now very much better than it did twelve years ago—it is a difference of something from 7d. to 10d. l—They say that they found it as difficult to pay even the reduced instalments on account of the price.

40643. Your illustrations were drawn from the difference between the prices now and twenty-five and up to forty years ago, but the reduction of rent took place perhaps twelve years ago?—Yes.

40644. And therefore whether that was a real assistance to the occupier depends on the alteration of prices during those twelve years?—Yes.

40645. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I think this was your statement, or this was the drift of it. You did not contend that if there had been no reduction in rent the farmers would have been able to go on at all. It would have been harder for him to go on and impossible in some cases; and the reduction enabled him to go on somehow?—Yes.

40646. And you contend that those reductions, whether by the fixing of fair rent or by purchase, have not left him financially in a better position than before those processes had taken place?—Yes.

40647. The fixing of fair rents and purchase?—And purchase.

40648. Now Gladstone's Act was passed in 1880, was not it?—Yes.

40649. And you mentioned distinctly twenty-five years ago?—Yes.

40650. And therefore we may take it that this reduction has been going on for the past twenty-five years; the reduction in rent or by purchase?—Of course there is sometimes a variation in the price of cattle, but the tendency is downward.

40651. What you wish to say, I think, to the Commission is this, that after the reductions in various ways during the past twenty-five years the farmer is not now financially stronger than he was before 1851?—Yes.

40652. And you wish to put before the Commission that the reduction in the price and value of farm produce has corresponded very largely to the reduction of rents?—Yes, or in the payment of instalments.

40653. From the time the tenants became the purchasers?—Yes.

40654. Then you do not contend that the prices now are lower than they were sixty or fifty years ago. That is not your point. Your point is that they are lower than they were twenty-five years ago?—Yes, lower than they were twenty-five years ago, and I did not say sixty years ago whether they were lower or not, but the apparent tendency is to be lower, and the farmers complain that the reduced price of their produce generally is an equivalent to the reduction of their payments, whether of rent or instalments.

40655. Mr. KAVANAGH.—To bear out your argument the prices would have had to fall half during the last twenty-five years. Do you really suggest to the Commission that store cattle have fallen half?—Oh, no; but there are other causes.

40656. But you have put down two causes, one the fall in store cattle, and the other the fall in butter. I admit the fall in the price of butter, but do you really suggest to the Commission that the prices of store cattle are half what they were twenty-five years ago?—Oh, no; I do not believe there is that fall.

40657. Is there any considerable fall in store cattle?—Well, I believe there has been.

40658. In the last twelve years?—Well, there is a variety in the prices, and sometimes changes take place, but I believe the tendency seems to be to fall.

40659. Would the fact of the farmers not being really financially better off now than twenty-five years ago have something to do with Mr. Sutherland's suggestion that he puts more money every year into improvements, and also that his style of living is higher?—I do not know that the improvements mean extra expenditure of money. The improvements so far as by members of his own family, and that does not mean, necessarily at least, a very great expenditure of money. And, of course, if he lives in a better style that may account for it to some extent; but the fact is there, and there is no doubt in the world of it, that the change financially is not so such as we would expect on account of purchase and rent reduction; and that is remarked in other places as well as this.

40660. And yet you admit that there is a considerable improvement in the holdings and in the houses?—Oh, yes, and in the manner of agriculture.

40661. And the comfort of living of the people?—Yes.

40662. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You could not deny—you would assert, I suppose, that the standard of living has gone up in a sense, and become much more expensive?—Well, to some extent, in that way. Now, I find some of the farmers say that it is not only a question of the price of produce, but also a question of the productiveness of the land. That the land is not what it used to be. And then follows another consideration, a notable change in the climate. Now, the third point would be an explanation of the second. I believe that the land of the country is not as productive as it was years ago. The climate, of course, is partly, or entirely, the cause of it, and I do not think it is necessary to go very far back in history for an illustration of that, for, take the last month of May—I suppose in the other parts of the country, where the Commissioners were sitting, there was the same kind of weather as in Clare; but certainly the weather that we had in Clare during the last month was not the usual kind of weather we were accustomed to have in Ireland during the month of May; not, from what we have seen of the month of June, is it normal weather for the month of June. I myself have been remarking that the climate and the

June 7, 1907.

Rev. J. Height.

June 7, 1907.

Mr. J.
McGlinchey.

besides all through the country, and the trees, have been burned up, not only by the frosts, but the harsh winds, not of December or March, but of the month of May. Well, farmers would say that it is not only a question of the reduction of the price of produce that they have to look to, but that the lands are not able to produce what they did before, for instance, when cattle were fit for the market, or stall; that the farmer is not able to produce those cattle now, and you will find practical farmers in this room to tell you that the climate is the explanation of it, and on some of the points that I have touched some of the gentlemen will be able to give you evidence of what has happened in their own cases.

40643. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—With regard to the climate, I am glad to hear that you base your observation or complaint upon the fact that the weather during the last two months has not been at all the weather you have been accustomed to in the months before, so that we may hope that it is an accident?—The tendency seems, for the last few years, for the summer months to become colder, and the farmers will tell you that where they produced wheat in the past they don't attempt to produce wheat now, and that where they produced cattle for Liverpool they do not attempt it now, and you will find that the reduction in the price of cattle and butter is as real as I have hinted at when you come to the farmer-witnesses. The third cause is not necessary to speak of—that is the change in the climate—because it is admitted that there is a decided tendency to a greater rainfall and humidity during the summer months, and that seems to give the explanation of the change in the land with regard to what it is able to produce. I was thinking of saying a word about industries, and suggesting a few things about industries in connection with Scariff. Even a change in the land question is not enough to make people comfortable, at least in many cases, and especially if their position does not appear to be improving in proportion as the land question is being settled it appears to be natural to turn our heads to some other help, and I ought to say a word about industries. And about industries in Scariff I would like to say that it appears to some of us that it would be an excellent centre for industrial undertakings, both from the fact that there is excellent water power, and a beautiful river just passing outside here, and that we have canal communication with different parts of the country, with Limerick on the one side, and Dublin on the other, and also because, historically, it appears that in the past this place was a centre of industrial activity. I say there is a tradition of it in the first place, and you have, just outside this room, remains of various mills and stone-works.

40644. What particular industries have you in your mind?—I looked at Lewis's Topographical Dictionary, printed in 1837, and it is strange to find that they were able to say that in the immediately preceding years, or at least, some time before that, about the woollen mill, and flour mills, and oil mill, and four or five industries in this locality. There was a woollen mill, and four flour mills, and oil mill, and there was an iron furnace—and in that connection I find that there was iron found in two districts in the vicinity of Scariff—there was an iron furnace in this place, here in the vicinity, and finally a glass foundry, a glass works in the locality, and hats were manufactured. That would be five or six industries in this locality, about 200 years ago. And how they all vanished or disappeared about that particular time it would be hard to say. I believe it is not fair to touch on anything that is contentious or political, but perhaps the Commission will allow me to say that my knowledge of history does not suggest any other cause that would be adequate to account for the disappearance of so many industries about that particular time, except to refer to a certain event that happened about the beginning of the last century. But there was a certain event in the relations of this country and the country across the water, and in or about that time five or six industries that had flourished at that time, and for some previous years, seemed to vanish just as snow vanishes before the sun.

40645. We will not discuss that, except to call your attention to this point, that it was in 1837 that all these industries were flourishing, and that the incident you refer to took place, I think, thirty-seven years before, was not it?—Yes, I think so.

40646. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—In it the question you refer to—Yes. I thought it would be a dangerous subject to touch on, but I suppose you are not free.

40647. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—We should not be afraid of discussing it, but it would rather poison the sittings of this Commission, and, as you observe from the debate that took place in the House of Lords, they are already getting a little fractious with us for discussing things of too great length—I referred to it as a certain political event, and except that Mr. Sutherland was kind enough to touch on it I should only have referred to it by that suggestion.

40648. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—I think you were quite free to allude to the union. Your point is that although your information comes from the year 1837 it would be quite natural that an event of that disastrous character would not have all its pernicious results for a considerable time after it occurred?—Yes. I have also got a further reply, that although the authority I refer to was printed in 1837, it does not mean that those industries existed till 1837, but merely the fact that some time previously so many industries did exist here, and I find that it is supported by the tradition of the older people, and by the fact that you have remains of mills and stone in the locality. With regard to the industries then, I am might remark that some time ago we found in the bed of the river a green stone. There were some variegated also specimens of stone. For a time we thought that we had found a valuable lot of marble, but I found that what was apparently a variegated stone was the remains of glass works, and that was another argument to prove that glass was made here in or about that time.

40649. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Have you the material here for making glass?—I believe we have the material—a sort of fine class of light sand.

40650. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—And that brings me to the subject of what industries should be suggested for the locality, and, of course, the industries that have been mentioned already as having existed, might be suggested, but it would depend, I suppose, very much on the question of capital, the men, and other circumstances; but one thing that may be interesting to the Commission is this, that some time ago I saw some reference in a *Claro* paper to a peculiar kind of sand that was found on the shore of a lake in the district, Lough Greaney, six or seven miles away, and it was said that it had been used in the past for industries; that it was used by farmers in connection with arylboards, and it was suggested that it would be suitable for various industries. I asked the landlord, Mr. Arthur Mahony, to send me a specimen of the sand; he did so, very kindly, and I have it here. I sent a specimen of the sand to the Agricultural Department to have it analysed. It was exhibited at the exhibition of Irish minerals a couple of years ago in London, at the South Kensington Museum, at the Cork Exhibition, and in various other places. I had a letter from the mineral expert, and as one result of the exhibition of this sand it may be interesting to know that I had several applications from manufacturers in England and Scotland inquiring about the sand and the conditions under which it could be sent; and the terms of sale. And it may be useful to know that some of them suggested that they wanted the sand for filtration purposes, others for making cement, and others for the manufacturing of glass; so that Mr. Sutherland, perhaps explains your question a while ago, that some of the inquiries suggested that they wanted the sand for the manufacture of glass. The expert, in giving an opinion on it, said it would be suitable for the manufacture of common rough glass. I think he said that for the finer class of glass it would be necessary, as there was too much iron in it, to put it through a some process which might be costly, and be seemed to have some difficulty about the distance from canals and railways. With respect to the starting of a new industry, I thought it would be interesting to the Commission to know that there was such a general asset in the place. And also a practical builder in this locality suggested to me that there was a fine class of building stone, a very excellent green stone, to be got from the same district as the sand comes from.

40651. I am sure that we are all much interested in the evidence you have given to us, but we have a lot of witnesses to hear, and I am afraid we must conclude. The only other thing I wished to suggest was forestry. I think the planting of mountain and waste

land in this district is most desirable. I think it is an industry that would give a great lot of employment, and it would be very important, for we have a great deal of mountain and waste land here that would be really useful for hardly any other purpose; more attention has been turned to this subject recently, and for some time past. I think it is an industry that is most practical and most tangible to take up the waste land, and to have them planted. They would give employment immediately, and there are other incidental industries that would follow the planting, where we have a want of woodland.

40652. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You have seen some of the work done in the country?—Well, there are such plantations in Ireland, and of course there are on the Continent, in Germany and France. But there is one striking example in Ireland, and that is the only one that I wish to mention, the plantation carried on by the monks of Mount Mellary. We have a branch of the Order in this district, in Roscrea. In the case of the monks of Mount Mellary, they have purchased a large tract of the Knockmellown Mountains, near Mount Mellary, and they have purchased it at the rate of 2s. 6d. an acre, and they have planted the mountain with trees, I think about 5,000 per acre, with larch and fir, and trees of that kind, at an expense, I think, of about £12 an acre and gave great employment, and after some dozen years or so, they were able to cut down the clearings of timber, which realised something between £20 and £40 an acre, and left sufficient under on the ground for future use and for the necessary purposes. And I was just going to say, if time permitted, that I think it is well for us to have an illustration so near at home as that. These religious people were conspicuous in the past for their works in that way, and for clearing and draining lands throughout Europe. In fact they were the earliest agriculturists in various parts of Europe in clearing woods and making canals and drains and so forth, and they have kept up their reputation in this district.

40653. They have done reclamation of land?—Oh, yes, and they are doing it constantly.

40654. And have encouraged others by their example?—Oh, certainly.

40655. I don't mean by the example of their life, but by the example of their reclamation?—Oh, certainly; and they established a branch in this district at Roscrea twenty-five or thirty years ago, and they improved the place. They had not such a scope for reclamation as at Mount Mellary, but they did it to some extent. They came into a broken-down mansion and a large demesne that was a wilderness when they came, neglected, with the forests broken down, and they have in a short space of time changed everything into a paradise. They have not only reclaimed the land, but they have set up mills; they have the most up-to-date machinery there, so that they are a light and leading in agriculture and in modern ways of doing even mundane things to the people for many miles around; and I am glad to say that in forestry they are the pioneers, as their predecessors were 600 years ago in various parts of Europe, and it seems to me that the example they have shown is a striking illustration of what can be accomplished even in Ireland, although we sometimes get credit for being a very spiritual people, and rather unfit for labour and progress. A remarkable book published within the last few years lays it to the charge of the Irish people that we are too spiritual—too spiritual to be successful in this world. It seems to me to be rather a remarkable charge to make against any people that they are either refined or spiritual, and I hope, so far as I am concerned, that whatever the will of Providence provides for Ireland, we always will be found spiritual and refined.

40656. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You yourself have written a book on temperance?—Yes, my lord.

40657. Has it been taken up by the National Board?—Yes. But with regard to that charge, there have been several copies, and very adequate replies to the book that I have referred to, but it appears to me that the example of the monks of Mount Mellary really is one of the best examples that you could get, because they are the very height of spirituality in this country. They are about the strictest Order we have in the Church. They get up at two o'clock in the

morning to praise God when some people are going to bed. They live all the year round in the strictest mortification; and here they are engaged in such worldly things as building mills with the most up-to-date appliances, and reclaiming land and planting mountains. They hold the vanguard in Ireland in such things as this, and considering the class of land they have cultivated, we may regard them as the best example to demonstrate that a people can be very spiritual and yet succeed in this world.

40658. Mr. STURTEVANT.—May I ask you with regard to the Order, do they employ labour or do they do the work themselves?—They do it mostly themselves, and that accounts for the cheapness of the labour. Everyone of them, even the Lord Abbot—the mitred Lord Abbot, who has a gold ring on his finger—goes out with his spade and shovel like the rest, and I have seen them doing so in Roscrea. They combine labour and prayer together, and their hours are very long hours. They get up at two o'clock in the morning, and they combine work and prayer; the result is that they reclaim land wherever they are, and they are pioneers of land reclamation and forest clearing, and in Roscrea their four mills are up-to-date, and in every industry they have undertaken, they are admitted by all persons, Protestant and Catholic, within miles to be pioneers.

40659. Are those works successful commercially?—I should say so, but of course they do a great deal for themselves. They grind I believe, corn for the entire people around; and, of course, the undertaking at Mount Mellary is successful from the figures I have given of the clearing of forests.

40660. How long ago was that planting done?—I do not think it is more than twenty years ago; but the clearings I have spoken of were rather recent.

40661. That was the very first thing?—Yes. It made about £35 an acre.

40662. I am astonished to see the amount these clearings fetched?—I state that on the authority of one who has taken much interest in this subject at present, Mr. Dawson, of Dublin; and his predecessor in the same subject included Sir Robert Kane, author of "The Industrial Resources of Ireland," Professor Sullivan, of the Queen's College, Cork, and Dr. Lyons, of Dublin. And these people took such an interest in the reforestation question that the Government invited an expert from Denmark, Mr. Hewitt, I believe, about twenty years ago, and his declaration was rather remarkable. He says the question of reforestation in Ireland was a most vital one for the country, and if the country were treated rightly in reclamation and other respects, we might have fifty-five millions instead of five millions.

40663. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Capital?—Population. And with respect to the question of afforestation, I would like to say also that I have seen it stated on the authority of Professor Schlich, that there was no country in the world whose climate suited planting as well as that of Ireland, and it seems that he also stated that Ireland was the least planted or afforested country in the world at present.

40664. Mr. STURTEVANT.—You surely do not know Great Britain if you say that. You are surely better told here than in Great Britain?—I do not know very much of Great Britain; but I believe we are not as well wooded.

40665. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The Secretary has just put into my hands one of the releases already published by this Commission, and it contains a remarkable report of Professor Schlich on the subject of experiments in Ireland on re-afforestation?—Yes; perhaps he included Mount Mellary.

40666. No; it is in the West of Ireland?—In some countries the Government take up the question of re-afforestation, as in France. There are obvious advantages when the Government take it up, but in some cases, when the property belongs to the municipal authority, the Government manage it, but at the same time the municipal authority get the profits, and in some cases the profits are so great that there are no rates, and it would be a very convenient thing if our mountains here were re-afforested in such a style that there would be no poor rates in the district of Scariff. I am sure that that would be one result that would be appreciated very much.

40667. Mr. STURTEVANT.—That is, that the Government should do the work, and that the locality should have the benefit of it. Why should you call upon the Government if it was to be local property?

* See Appendix to the Third Report of the Commission [Ct. 3134] p. 293.

June 7, 1907.

Mr. J.
Hagden.

—Because they have done it in foreign countries. 40666. But it is not a common thing on the Continent. The forests belong to the Government?—But in some cases the Government do it. And I believe our Government, even in India, have done something of the kind.

40666. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And in France is not there a Department of Forestry?—Yes. And I would ask the Government also, because I could satisfy them that it would be a very practical thing to do,

to give employment and to bring about industrial wealth and success in the country, and it would not be at all necessary to lose financially, and they would not lose anything on any bargain they make with us. They should manage the thing, and I would like them to begin with a little margin; and they would secure themselves, and secure themselves very well.

40670. It is not a grant of public money you require?—Certainly not.

Mr. PATRICK J. HAGDEN examined.

Mr. Patrick
J. Hagden.

40671. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You represent the County Council?—Yes.

40672. You have prepared notes of evidence?—Yes, I have. They were only the headings of what I wish to speak on. Land purchase is the first subject, and one of the most important in the country, and then there is something about the state of land purchase and drainage and the want of transit facilities and congestion in the district.

40673. We will take them one at a time. Why should land purchase not be more extensive in Clare?—My answer to that is, because at the present time, and for the past four years in Clare, too high a price has been demanded for the land.

40674. I think we heard from the last witness that half the district familiar to him has changed hands?—That is only half in one parish. Beyond that, in Scariff Union, I do not know of more than two or three sales under the Act of 1903.

40676. Have there been attempted negotiations between tenants and landlords which have broken down?—There have been. I can give you instances where negotiations have broken down. For instance, there was an estate on which I was a tenant myself, the Francis North Estate (Francis North was the owner of it), and nine years ago he carried out negotiations for the sale of that estate at fifteen years' purchase. There were two estates that can parallel. This estate was purchased at fifteen years, which included the arrears on the estate, which amounted to a good deal.

40676. Fifteen years' purchase of judicial rents?—Of first term judicial rents, under the Arrears Act. That sale was subject to inspection on the part of the Land Commission, and the Land Commission sent down one of their inspectors, and on a portion of that estate he only recommended twelve years' purchase, which the landlord accepted. There is an estate running parallel to it that is equal to it in every way, for I know both thoroughly. The landlord of that estate offered to sell it four years after, or a couple of years previous to the Act of 1903, for eighteen years' purchase, but the tenants upon the estate refused to accept it when it was no better than the land on the other side, and they could not afford to pay more than the other tenants had paid for the land on the other side. The negotiations fell through, and after the Act of 1903 the landlord offered to sell for twenty-five years' purchase at the same term rents.

40677. For the same term rents?—The same term rents, first term rents, twenty-five years' purchase, and of course the negotiations fell through.

40678. What estate is that?—The Gardner estate.

40679. Is there a evidence on that estate?—There is not. Sir Robert Gardner, of Dublin, is the landlord. Several other estates in Clare, too, are similar.

40680. Let us take one on which the negotiations have broken down?—Well, of estates in Clare there is the Fitzgerald estate. I will take the Fitzgerald estate.

40681. Is that the one that was mentioned this morning?—No, it is the estate of Lady Fitzgerald. Negotiations for sale were carried on and the landlord offered to sell at 25 years' purchase.

40682. That is since the Act of 1903?—Yes, since 1903, at 25 years' purchase of second term rents and a lesser number of years on first term. The tenants offered something like 21½ years on second term rents, and I believe it was 20 years' purchase that was offered on first term rents, and the landlord refused to carry out the sale and the tenants went into Court and got 1s. 6d. in the pound, on the average, more of a

reduction than the landlord was getting them to purchase it. There were only a couple of second term tenants on the estate. I think it was one or two.

40683. And the reduction of rent made by the Court was 1s. 6d. below the annuity which they would have had to pay?—Yes, below what they would have had to pay.

40684. Perhaps we ought not to go on to other estates. That explains that part of the subject sufficiently. Now, as to the case of high prices?—The cause of high prices is because the land in Clare is a lot dearer than in any other county I know.

40685. What is the cause of that?—The cause may be two. I should say from my experience of the County Clare that one of the causes is short leases. I have gone over and valued estates in Clare, and I have found short leases. I must say the landlords are poorer than any other landlords I know of in the entire county, and when they bought one estate, after buying the estate they mortgaged the estate and bought another, and they would give short leases immediately afterwards and the rent was increased.

40686. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are they mostly leaseholders?—They were leaseholders. They are judicial tenants now.

40687. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are they giving short leases to tenants to-day?—Not to-day. I am speaking of the past thirty or forty years ago.

40688. Mr. KAVANAGH.—They were before the Act of 1881?—Yes, but not since.

40689. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—To secure a high rent a short lease was given. Is that the statement?—Certainly, my lord. I have some particulars of an estate here that I know about. I take it as typical of many estates. The rent on that estate has been reduced, I am sure, at the present time from what it was formerly by 75 per cent., and still the rent is dear, because it is mountain land.

40690. When you speak of the cause of high price, that would not affect the price at which an estate would sell to-day, but do you mean that that caused high rents?—That caused high rents.

40691. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is it your opinion that when the reductions came to be made they were not made with reference to the real value of the land so much as with reference to the rent they had formerly paid?—I am positive that that is the fact. I have seen it over and over. I have seen two farms side by side the quality of the land being equal on both farms and there was 30 per cent. difference in the judicial rent. That was in the 'eighties, first term rents.

40692. Mr. KAVANAGH.—How do they compare with the valuation?—In some cases they are under the valuation, but here the valuation is never taken as a criterion of the value of the land, because when the land of Clare was valued a lot of this was broken up and under tillage. If you go up to the mountain top at the present time you will observe the ridges where it was in wheat, and there is nothing now but heather and rushes; and that land was valued. The very worst class of land in Clare was in tillage at that time because the weather was fine and the seasons good, so that anything you would throw down in the soil came up that time.

40693. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Now, touching another point, the Land Courts?—I know another estate that is very much broken up in a part of this county where they were carrying on negotiations for a sale. They have got a far better reduction now than they would have got under the purchase, the estate is so much broken up. Take a farm of twelve acres. It may be in twenty-seven different holdings, and that is over, let us say, 2,000 acres of an estate.

40694. Do you anticipate that as showing it to be desirable to enter the Land Court rather than buy at

present prices?—The reason I say that is because land in Clare was let higher than any other county I know of.

40663. Now, about arterial drainages?—I would prefer to finish about land purchase if you please.

40664. Very well?—I would like to say a word or two about the breaking up of grass farms, and migration from the mountains and from the congested holdings, and I have a table prepared here showing all the valuations in the union under £25. We have under £25 valuation in Scarriff Union 1,246 holdings, and the total number of holdings in the union is 7,000 or something under, and the population is 10,445.

40667. And have you much grass land available?—I am sure there are four or five farms available.

40668. And what is the acreage?—About 400 acres.

40669. Then there would be only 400 acres in the union available for increasing those 1,246 holdings?—Yes.

40700. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—It would come to this, that Scarriff is scarcely one of the unions in which there is very much grass land available for migration or for enlargement of holdings?—Yes.

40701. But outside that union, in other parts of Clare is there land?—Oh, yes, lots of land where people are not so congested as in Scarriff. And it is impossible for these people to continue to exist as they do at present, and the result is that there is not so much emigration out of the place than there is at the present time, because they are certainly not earning enough's hire at the present time on those miserable farms, and unless they are continually delving into them the land goes back into its original state of wilderness and mountain.

40702. Can anything be done towards teaching the people better methods of cultivation?—I think there has been a great deal done to teach them how to cultivate their land, and I think they are fairly well taught how to cultivate their land at the present time. Teaching is of very little use to a man who must continually improve his farm to keep it from going back into rushes; and a farm which is weak.

40703. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think you told us that formerly the holdings on the tops of the mountains were under tillage. The seasons were altogether different. We had fine weather at that time, and at that time you could sow crops out in December. Now you cannot sow till April.

40704. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But surely there was potato blight in those days?—Potato blight was not known before 1879. There was no potato blight in that part.

40705. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Before the famine years—1845 or 1846?—1845 or 1846.

40706. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say the potato disease was unknown before that practically?—Yes.

40707. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You think the climate has deteriorated, that the cultivation of wheat on a scale that was possible before would not be possible now?—It would not be possible. There is too much moisture and too much cold.

40708. Do you look to re-afforestation such as was described by the preceding witness as one expedient for improving the climate?—Oh, yes; that and drainage.

40709. What kind of drainage—is it arterial drainage?—Yes, arterial. I think in Scarriff we had a Commission appointed, a Viscount's Commission, in 1850, to inquire into the drainage of this district, and all we have is a Government Report on it. That Report has been made, and they recommended a sum of about 250,000 to be expended on the drainage of Scarriff River and its tributaries, and the valuation would cover something like 5,400 acres. Several attempts were made afterwards to carry out that drainage, and the owners of the land opposed. The occupiers, a portion of them, were for it, but they thought, after having gone into the several schemes, that it would be impossible to drain the river without getting a free grant from the Government, and that commercially considering the acreage and the amount the occupiers were prepared to pay, there would not be a penny, and they asked the State on several occasions to make a free grant to do the work.

40710. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Commercially it was not worth while doing it?—I am not sure about that at all, but on the sides of the river you have a rock and you must expend a great deal of money to blow up that rock. It is a limestone rock, and the whole land is now one stant of water, and it is deplorable to

see not only the beasts dying from that tubercular disease, but the people along this river dying with consumption, because there are houses upon houses there and families, and you will see one or two of them had up with fogs and mists arising out of the river and the lake; and I see it would be in the interest of the nation to drain it.

40711. I agree with you absolutely, but I understood you to state that it was found that as a commercial speculation it would not be successful, and therefore that you thought that the Government should come in on account of national considerations. I am not in the least drying your point?—Yes.

40712. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Are you aware that with reference to that class of drainage, the Commission which has just issued its report has recommended, much on the same lines as the Commission to which you have referred, that the amount which should be charged to the occupier should correspond with the direct advantage which he receives from the drainage?—I am not aware of that, but I may say that I gave evidence before the Commission, and that that was the very suggestion I made at that time. There is another drainage needed, which is in Tualla and Killanure, a drainage of 200 acres that could be reclaimed for 4s. an acre, but nothing has been done, and along the whole river beautiful land that could be reclaimed at a very small cost; but nothing has been done.

40713. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That would be rather a case for local authority?—But there is no local authority which could at the present time work it till, I think, the law is amended.

40714. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—To whom does this land belong?—It belongs to different occupiers.

40715. But it is their interest to improve their own property?—But there is no local authority.

40716. What did the owner do in the past when this land was gone derelict in this way?—He was a minor then and there was nobody to look after the estate except a receiver, and then he joined the army, and now he is back again, and he has a smaller estate, and the tenants have not only to bank up the land, but they have to face the difficulty of draining it off their own but unless something is done.

40717. It appears to me to be an opportunity for getting an additional fourteen acres of drained land?—But they would not get assistance even from the landlord, where it is going through his own land, to do it. And then with regard to traffic, in this part of Clare we are worse off than any people in Ireland. We have something like fifty miles to travel from this union to Ennis without a mile of railway. Some time ago Mr. Gerald Balfour offered £55,500 to the Grand Jury of Clare to build a line of light railway through East Clare, but the Grand Jury could not see their way to accept the money, and they considered that the tax on the rates would be so great that they would not be justified in accepting the offer except he gave a free grant of the whole amount or three-fourths of it.

40718. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—That was before the Local Government Act came into operation. And there were several attempts to do something by district schemes, but nothing has been done; and if you have an article for sale, except cattle that can walk, you will be tired bringing it to a railway station. And people are trying to encourage tillage and everything else in the country, but if you have mangos or turnips for sale, and if you bring in four tons to our local market here you will cause a glut in the market, and you cannot get near a good market.

40719. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are those mangos grown in this district?—Yes.

40720. Do they do well?—They do well in this part of the district.

40721. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—That is the second 250,000, after the lapse of many years, recommended for expenditure in this district, and yet not expended?—It is not expended, my lord, and it was held over year after year, and they could not take it. We are paying already 2d. in the pound as a guarantee to the West and South Clare Railways.

40722. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—And what was the line of this proposed light railway?—It was proposed to run from Ennis to Scarriff.

40723. Through Tualla?—To Tualla and by townlands adjoining.

June 7, 1907.

Mr. Patrick J. Hogan.

June 7, 1907,

Mr. Patrick
J. Hogan.

40724. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What was the estimated cost?—It would cost nearly double the amount. I think a broad line would be far better if we had another line of railway. And then we were very hopeful that we would get a motor service in Clare.

40725. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—On the same line?—No, but a line of Lord Pirrie's and another's.

40726. But by the same road?—Yes, by the same route, but our hopes were again dashed.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—There was a disposition as to keeping the roads in repair, and where the roads were not kept in repair they would not give the motor service.

40728. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Did you know that scheme was the Pirrie-Jeragh scheme?—No.

40729. What was the proposed terminus of the line from Scariff to Ennis?—Scariff was the terminus.

40730. Was it not to go on north to Mountshannon?—To Scariff.

40731. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Are you on the County Committee of this county—Clare?—Yes.

40732. Have you any agricultural scheme in this county?—We have, sir.

40733. What benefit do you think the surrounding district gets from this scheme?—Firstly, we have got a good deal of lectures. The various lecturers who have come to the county have done a good deal of good. And also what has done a good deal of good in various districts is the cottage prizes and farm prizes, giving encouragement to the various farmers throughout the district to improve their holdings and do it in the best possible manner.

40734. Have you an agricultural instructor?—Yes.

40735. A suitable man?—Yes.

40736. And has he any experimental plots?—He has; but I must say that I see plots at the present time with various farmers round here equally good with the experimental plots, only that they are better managed. And also with respect to a good deal of the lecturing in this county, we expect that after a time we can dispense with the services of the lecturers in such matters as poultry, and butter-making also.

40737. But up to the present time you think that there has been a certain advantage?—Oh, certainly, there has been a great advantage.

40738. Does the advantage come to the smaller farmer as well as to the larger farmer?—It comes to the smaller farmer, but the advantage would be far greater were it not for the want of transit, because if he has an article prepared for the market he cannot find an outlet.

40739. The smaller farmer?—He has butter and eggs and things like that that he must sell locally at far less prices than if he had railway facilities.

40740. Do you do any spraying in this part of the county?—I think this is one of the first counties that used spraying. They sprayed here fifteen years ago.

40741. That was not the teaching of the Agriculture Department?—No; before the Agriculture Department was commenced all they were spraying here. I think it was owing to a clergyman we had here—Father Clancy. I think he was the first in Clare that sprayed, and that was fifteen years ago; and now in all parts they spray two or three times a year, and I think there is no place in Clare where they spray so much as in this part of the union.

40742. And on the whole you are satisfied with the work of the County Committee. They do good in this locality?—Certainly, an amount of good.

40743. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Tell us how the scheme is arranged between yourselves and the Department. Must the scheme originate with the Department or originate with you, and then be discussed by them before they consent to give their share of the money?—I think what Mr. Birrell said would be applicable, that the County Committee advise and the Department does as it likes. I was for years a member of the Board of Agriculture myself, and I know a good deal of the working of it, and nothing could hit off the situation better than what he said—the Council advises and the Board recommends, but the Department does what it likes.

40744. And when you were in the Department you did what you liked?—I was not in the Department at all, but I was on the Board. The Department did what it liked.

40745. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Your answer to Sir Francis seems to indicate that in your opinion it is the Department that fixes the agricultural schemes?—You may alter minor details, but that is all.

40746. Do you think it right that the County Committee should have more initiative and more power?—Oh, certainly. They know what is suitable to the various districts and the different parts of the country better than any Department or any inspector.

40747. Was it your experience that an officer of the Department would come down and say, "The Department will not have so-and-so"?—Yes, and that the scheme would fall to the ground unless so-and-so was done.

40748. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—On the other hand, the county is not bound to subscribe unless it is in agreement with the Department?—Certainly not; but in this way the county is bound to subscribe, because there are certain schemes which had been partly carried on for a year preceding, and if that part of the scheme fell through it would be a great injustice to certain people who would suffer an injustice. For instance, suppose there may be people who may have got houses for cows, and bulls, through the county, and they will get a premium for two or three years for those. Well, if the scheme does not suit, and the Department's inspector tells the County Committee, "We cannot have that particular part of your scheme," the County Committee can say "We will let the scheme fall through"; but still they consider that they cannot do that without doing injustice to a certain number of people who got certain animals on the faith of the scheme living for the following year or the year after. So we would have to accept the scheme.

40749. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But we can drop that part of the scheme without dropping the whole scheme?—We can drop that part of the scheme, but that would be the greater part of the scheme, and that would be the very part of the scheme that we wanted to hold on to.

40750. For instance, if the Department objected to the poultry scheme you could drop the poultry scheme altogether and carry on the rest of the scheme?—Certainly.

40751. I think it does not bind you to the whole scheme?—I am aware of that, and we did disagree about that, and the Department paid for the poultry instructors themselves.

40752. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Would not you think it a pity that the Department should interfere in a way that practically compels your abandonment of a portion of your scheme?—Yes; I fancy that would be an injustice to the county.

40753. If the scheme were altogether dropped you would lose the rate in aid?—Yes.

40754. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—And you would also break your faith with those other people?—Yes.

40755. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—At the same time would you allow that some central body like the Department of Agriculture should have some control?—Certainly.

40756. Mr. KAVANAGH.—It must have some control when it is contributing a 192s more than half?—Yes. There is a portion of Scariff Union, the electoral divisions of Inismiller North and South Dromer and Mountshannon, which are under the Congested Districts Board and have never got any aid from it in any way.

40757. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Have you made any application?—I understand that they have brought their requirements before the officials of the Board.

40758. With what result?—Nothing. These places were transferred to the County Clare for administrative purposes under the Local Government Act, but they were scheduled while they were part of the County Galway, and they continued so when they were transferred to the County Clare.

40759. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—There is no reason in the world why they should not receive special treatment under the Congested Districts Board, but you would not be surprised to hear that there are several electoral divisions scheduled that receive no special treatment?—I would regret to hear that.

40760. Do you think the case of these electoral divisions being brought before the Board itself?—I understand it was brought before the officials of the Board. I hope now that I have called your lordship's attention to their case they will get what they are a long time standing in need of; that is some consideration at the hands of the Board.

Mr. WILLIAM O'DONNELL examined.

June 7, 1906.

40761. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You reside at Feale and come to represent the Scariff Rural District Council?—Yes. I am Chairman of the Scariff Rural District Council.

40762. Do you yourself farm?—Yes, on an ordinary small farm of about 30 acres. I find that there are from 900 to 1,000 small holdings in the union valued at £20 and under.

40763. You state that as establishing the existence of congestion?—Yes.

40764. Do you know what is the total number of holdings in the whole union?—I would consider that there are less than 2,000.

40765. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—We have it here—it is about 1,523?—That is about correct.

40766. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What figure were you taking for a small holding?—I was taking anything under £25.

40767. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You state that the number of small holdings in the union in comparison to the total number of holdings is sufficient in your opinion to establish the existence of congestion in the district?—Yes.

40768. Your next point is the grazing farms?—I took the acreage and valuation of some of the grazing farms. They are principally in the hands of the landlords.

40769. They are in the district of which you are speaking now?—Yes.

40770. You need not go into the details of each; do you know at all the acreage of grazing land which is available in the district?—About 1,250 acres. Some of that is mountain. There is a property of 1,034 acres near Killahe with a valuation of £233 10s. I think there must be a good deal of that mountain.

40771. It does not follow because it is a mountain that it is wholly valueless for feeding?—According to the amount of the valuation it would not be all arable land. General Gore has 120 acres, all arable land; the valuation is £100 15s. Colonel O'Callaghan has 114 acres of good arable land, with £282 10s. valuation. Valuation is the best guide in this part of the country as to land.

40772. I am afraid we have heard in evidence this morning that it is no guide at all?—I take it as a guide. I don't find any better standard than valuation.

40773. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—As compared with acreage?—Yes.

40774. In dealing with untenanted land it is necessarily a guide?—Yes; but I have experience of this very land.

40775. You appreciate the point of our Chairman with reference to the rent it is no guide?—No; it is only in reference to acreage. The acreage in itself is no guide. The valuation might be only a penny an acre, in which case you might have 1,000 acres, and the valuation might not be £50.

40776. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I don't think we need go through the different holdings. You have given us the amount of grass land which you think would be available. The point of your evidence is that in your opinion these grass lands should be acquired, one way or another, from the present holders, and should be allotted to the small farmers to increase their holdings?—Yes. Then in reference to drainage, I wish to say a few words. The river leading up from here in the direction of Tulla is doing great damage.

40777. When the floods are on?—Yes. In fact today I saw a lot of lands flooded.

40778. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is the land sold from the landlords to the tenants?—Portion of it is.

40779. Take an estate along the river on which sales have not yet occurred. Assume for the moment that tenants and landlords agree about price. Would you consider that it would be a good thing for the tenant as he becomes a peasant proprietor to have an addition to his investment put upon him to correspond with the advantage that he would gain from a large drainage scheme such as you propose?—It would not.

40780. Suppose this drainage takes place, and a farmer along the river is considerably improved, would it be fair to put some part of the drainage expenditure on the farmer to correspond with the advantage he got from the drainage?—I don't quite understand.

40781. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That a loan would be made for the purpose of drainage, and instalments to

cover interest on the loan and sinking fund similar to the annuity for the purchase of the land would be added to that annuity?—They would not be able to bear it in the case of a great many of the small farmers. They might bear a small part of it, but not the whole of it.

40782. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would not the value of the land be greatly improved?—It would.

40783. Would not be better able to pay the instalments plus a little for drainage, if the drainage were done, then to pay the original instalments without any drainage?—Yes. The whole countryside is destroyed by this river.

40784. Mr. KAVANAGH.—How many miles of this river would you have to fence?—When you go a couple of miles above Scariff it goes away in the direction of Lough Graney.

40785. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What would be the nature of the work to be done?—Sinking the river. For about a mile above the town it is all a rock. As it comes down here there is a waterfall. You can stand on the bridge and look up.

40786. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You would want to cut the rock?—Yes. It is the rock that is keeping back the water. Then also the river should be cleaned up thoroughly.

40787. If that rock were cut would the river run properly then?—It would have a good fall, but the river should be cleaned all along back until it meets the high land. It all runs off the mountains.

40788. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The rock is the chief obstacle, but not the only one?—Yes.

40789. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It is all here in this neighbourhood?—Yes, for about a mile or two.

40790. In the rock very long?—No, but there are portions of it deep. The rock extends up for about half-a-mile continuously; then it gets pretty deep, and then you meet the rock again.

40791. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Your next point is local industries?—We have no local industries here of any description, with the exception of a little milling, flour, and meal, done in Killahe.

40792. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You mean industry for men?—Yes, to give employment.

40793. Is there wool in the district?—Yes, wool is exported from the quay down here, and sent away.

40794. Has it occurred to the people in the locality that the woollen industry could be started?—The wool is brought here into the market and also in Feale, and sent away to England.

40795. Is there water power available?—Yes; the finest in the world.

40796. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is that one of the industries that you suggest?—I would say that a woollen factory is desirable in the district.

40797. At all events, you think that inquiries should be made to ascertain whether it is possible to start a woollen industry in this district which might be self-supporting?—Yes.

40798. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You would agree with the suggestion of the Chairman, that before anything is done it would be well to have a practical expert go into the question, and inform the people as to his opinion of the possibilities of the industry?—Yes.

40799. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That would be the plan to be adopted before starting an industry. It would be useless to start an industry merely on the ground that under altogether different circumstances it paid. The question is whether it could be made to pay. The first thing to do is to make adequate inquiry to see with regard to an industry whether that would be possible?—Of course there is no use in starting an industry that would not be likely to pay.

40800. Your next point is the construction of a railway; that is the same railway that we have heard the scheme put forward about?—Yes; we are very backward for want of some mode of conveyance for goods and other traffic. There is conveyance by water in here to Scariff from Killahe, Limerick, and Dublin, but it is so dear that you can only convey provisions. You cannot convey any kind of produce by it.

40801. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What sort of conveyance is there between here and Killahe?—By boat.

40802. Is there a packet sailing regularly?—There is no regular sailing. In fact there could not be a

June 7, 1897.

Mr. William O'Sullivan.

regular sailing for these are some defects down below the town, and in Killahee any great rise of water or flood stops them, and they have to be often a week there before they come up here to Scariff. In my experience there is often a delay of a week before they can get goods from Killahee or Limerick into Scariff. There is a canal from Killahee to Limerick connecting it with the Dublin canal.

40603. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is there great delay in sending barges along these canals?—Yes; in fact better and other things cannot be sent by boat because of the delays, and they are sent by car to Limerick. A great deal of fresh butter is brought every week at Foale, but it must be sent by car to Limerick. There are tons of it. If it was sent by boat from here it might be three days before it arrived, by which time it would be bad.

40604. Are there any creameries in the vicinity here?—No; we have no creameries in the Scariff rural district.

40605. Mr. KIVANAGH.—It is not a dairying country?—It is. Every holder keeps cows.

40606. It has never been suggested to you to start creameries?—There were suggestions to start creameries on a few occasions at Foale and Bolyha, but they fell through.

40607. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Did they fall through on the ground of objection to the system of creameries or to their not seeing their way to make

it pay?—They said it would not pay, I should think. Mr. HOSAN.—The proprietary creamery owners refused to come to this part of the country. They could not get their butter and cream away. There were local efforts made to establish creameries, but they found that they could not get the butter in a satisfactory condition to market because of the conditions of transit.

Witness.—Everything attempted here is hampered for want of a mode of transit.

40608. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What is your next point?—I know two or three townlands very convenient to me which are quite congested. There are fifteen families there living on a valuation of £70, and unfortunately the poorer they are the larger the families.

40609. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You think that it would be an improvement if people were found to get them taken within the congested area to which the action of the Congested Districts Board applies?—Yes; it applies to several townlands that I know of, and in those townlands that I mention, they may hold the land in nine or ten different places.

40610. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The land is in rural use?—Yes. The tenants hold in common. I know one case in which seven people hold eight acres of meadow land in common. Four of them have one-half one year, while the other three have the remaining four acres. The next year they change this about.

Mr. MICHAEL COLLINS examined.

Mr. Michael Collins.

40611. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You reside at O'Callaghan's Mills, and represent the Board of Guardians of Tulla?—Yes.

40612. Are you a farmer?—Yes, I hold between sixty and seventy acres; some in Scariff Union and some in Tulla; six miles apart. I have fifty-five acres in Tulla, with a valuation of £30. I got an statement, but I am not satisfied with it, and I will look for more.

40613. When did you settle?—About four years ago. The valuation of the whole union is £33,686; the population is 4,824. There are ninety-one outdoor relief cases in the union, comprising 111 persons, at an average cost of £10 weekly through the year. There are a lot of small holdings in the lower end of the Tulla Union, but in Broadford, in the south-east of the union, at Kildarra, which has a lot of mountain attached to it, I have known six of them to be on a £5 valuation, sharing this land between them.

40614. Do you mean to say that there were six persons on one holding?—Yes, on the one holding, each with their own "divide."

40615. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Had each of the families a share of the valuation by itself?—Yes. Every man has his own little divide of the land, but there is a joint valuation of the whole.

40616. Each has his own little tenancy in it?—Yes.

40617. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is that going on to-day?—Yes, up to the present. The whole valuation is £5, but they don't hold in common. Each has his own share.

40618. Separately?—Yes. There is a large tract of mountain overhead on the Killarney mountain which would be very useful to these poor people if they could get share of it.

40619. Could you at all say what rent they are paying?—I cannot say.

40620. They cannot be living off that land; are they really labourers? Do they work for other people?—Yes, they do. That is their way of living.

40621. They are labourers and have this little plot of land?—Yes.

40622. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—They are judicial tenants all the same?—They never went into court, as far as I know.

40623. Could they if they wanted to?—Yes.

40624. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—They are a little different from what I understand as the men legitimately described as small holders. They are labourers having small plots of ground to live out their wages?—Yes.

40625. Is the point of the statistics with which you have supplied us that this district should be treated as a congested district?—That is my point.

40626. You are speaking now for the whole of Tulla, or for the particular part from which you come?—For the congested part.

40627. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is there much land in Tulla Union for the enlargement of holdings?—Yes; very large farms.

40628. Are they held by the landlords themselves or by grazing tenants?—Partly by the landlord and partly by grazing tenants.

40629. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I see there are twelve holders above £300, twenty-three above £100, seventy-seven above £50. Are these very large holdings grass holdings?—Yes.

40630. Are they in the occupation of the owner himself?—Partly. There are a few parts left for grazing. The rest is in the hands of the owner.

40631. Are the owners resident upon them as a rule?—Yes. One owner sold his place a few days ago. That is Mr. Phelps.

40632. Was that a large holding?—Not large in that union. These small holders about him were in the habit of getting bog from him. Now that he has sold to his tenants, he believes that they will keep all this bog. What the other holders will do, I don't know. There is another large bog up on the mountain, but it is very hard to get there.

40633. Was it only by his own tenants that Mr. Phelps used to let the bog?—To all the people in the neighbourhood.

40634. Why will not the tenants do the same?—The tenants will get it all with their holdings.

40635. But beyond what they use themselves they will sell?—Probably they won't. The bog is little enough for every tenant to get a share of it according to his holding. These people will be deprived of the bog then.

40636. Most Rev. O'DONNELL.—Were these people on a different estate?—Yes.

40637. They used to get turf on this estate?—Yes.

40638. Now that the holdings are sold to the tenants on this estate, they are not sure whether they will get it?—Yes.

40639. At all events they are dependent on the new proprietors?—They won't get it from the new proprietors, to my mind.

40640. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Why not?—Because they think it is little enough for themselves for years to come; but there is another large bog up in the mountains. I cannot say who owns it.

40641. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you think should the department having charge of sales from landlord to tenant be charged with the duty of taking a large survey of the turbary question in each locality and making the most of the bog in the locality before the land is sold to the tenants?—Before it was sold

to the tenants it was sold to outsiders, every man taking yearly a certain amount and paying for it; now that the estate is sold there will be no more of that.

40842. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say that the tenant won't sell turf to these other people because they have no more than is necessary for themselves?—That is the very reason.

40843. Then taking the whole union there is no harm done, because if they sold the turf there would be none left for themselves, so that they would be in the position of not getting any advantage from the sale?—Yes.

40844. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The peasant proprietors should naturally be provided with turf; that would be sufficient for them for many years ahead?—Yes.

40845. Suppose there was a tract of bog such as you have alluded to at a distance, don't you think in a sale from landlord to tenant the Land Commission should endeavour to get hold of that bog and not

allow it to pass into the hands of any private individual?—As a rule they divide it among the tenants. I have seen on several occasions an attempt made by one farmer on an estate to get the whole bog, but it was not allowed. It was divided in squares to every tenant.

40846. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The tenants would think it a great hardship if the landlord sold the bog away from them?—It would never do.

40847. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Your point really is that what you have been saying would justify the treatment of this particular district on the same principle as is now applied by the Congested Districts Board to land under them: that is really what you want to tell us?—Yes. This bog that I refer to which these people would require is on the top of a mountain, and there is no access to it at all. It is very easy making some sort of a by-road to it; but how these people are to get turf in future I don't know unless they go up there.

June 7, 1907.

Mr. Michael Collins.

Mr. TIMOTHY DELANEY continued.

40848. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—Yes. I am a small farmer having about nine acres of land, and reside at Killybarrow, Fiske, in the union of Scariff. I wish to speak of Congested Districts. There are 420 acres on this Killybarrow property. There are fourteen tenants on it, and the valuation of the fourteen tenants is 250 lrs., and the grass land attached to it is 250 ac.

40849. Attached to the fourteen holdings?—No, but the grass land on the property.

40850. There is grass land adjoining valued at 250 lrs.?—Yes.

40851. Who is holding that?—A gramer, a Mrs. McDonough, of Fiske.

40852. Does she graze her own beasts or let it for grazing?—She grazes her own beasts on it. In the electoral division of Coolra, township of Killybarrow, one of the fourteen tenants have from five to ten acres, and in some cases a man with five acres has sixteen divisions on it.

40853. Is that in rundale?—Yes, and there are seven parties joined in one meadow of eight acres, and the party they will have this year they won't have that part next year.

40854. That is the case we have just heard about?—Yes. Each of these tenants has not a decent acre together. They have only patches here and there. That much grass land is outside, and there were negotiations with the landlord some time ago to sell and he referred us to the agent. We asked the agent to sell through the Estates Commissioners, and he said he would not sell through any third party, and he asked twenty-four years' purchase for that kind of land.

40855. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—For the rundale?—Yes.

40856. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—For the land occupied by the tenants?—Yes.

40857. Your point in suggesting a sale through the Estates Commissioners was that they might rearrange and enlarge the holdings by additions from this meadow land?—Exactly.

40858. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say that these fourteen holders would be willing to accept the authority of the Estates Commissioners if they, for instance, were to buy the grazing land and stripe it and give one-fourteenth to each tenant?—Certainly.

40859. They would accept the decision of the Estates Commissioners as to the division?—Yes.

40860. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have any of these rundale tenants been into court?—Yes.

Mr. Timothy Delaney.

40861. How does the Sub-Commission fix rents in a case such as you describe to us?—I don't really know, because I was not in the place when they went there, but I believe they got little or nothing.

40862. How does it fix a rent on a holding that moves the place every year?—I cannot tell you how they fix that.

40863. Is rundale very largely the custom in this country?—I don't know.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT (to Mr. Hogan).—Will you explain to us the system on which a judicial rent can be fixed on holdings such as have been described?

Mr. Hogan.—In my experience of Clare I have met no rundale estates. It is all in patches divided up, but the patches have bounds around them: except there may be half an acre belonging to each man in one field and there is something like a boundary mark to distinguish it, and the Commissioner scales the different pieces of the map and adds them together to make the holding.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—In this case, where seven families have eight acres of rundale, and they have to divide a piece of meadow so that four of them have it one year and these the next, would it be possible to fix a rent, or do you know any system by which it could be fixed?

Mr. Hogan.—I never met that in the County Clare.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—How is a farm valued when it is in patches?

Mr. Hogan.—They put it all together.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—There would be no greater difficulty than in common grazing?

Mr. Hogan.—Yes.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—There must be a map in fixing a judicial rent. Can they do that with common grazing?

Mr. Hogan.—Yes. I have known that to exist in Clare. There may be ten or twelve different places.

40864. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What you want to submit to the Commission is that the grass lands to which you have referred should in some way or other be added to the fourteen holdings?—(Witness).—Yes, and to put it together in a way that it would be some use to somebody. It is no use to anybody as it is, and in fact when you are crossing and re-crossing you cannot keep up bounds, if you are ever so well inclined. You cannot do it.

Mr. JOHN MALONE examined.

40870. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Are you a farmer?—No. I reside at Ballyke. I am only giving some evidence with reference to the stock that would be suitable for the district in which I live.

40871. Are you a dealer in stock?—I was a while cattle-dealing, and I was a good while in Scotland as an assistant salesman.

40872. You had an opportunity of studying breeds of cattle first in Scotland?—Yes.

40873. In what districts of Scotland?—Through Argyllshire, Perthshire, Lanarkshire, and Fife.

I was dealing for myself between this country and Scotland.

40874. How many years have you been in this country?—About fifteen years.

40875. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are you a native of this country?—Yes.

40876. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You want to say something as to the particular sort of stock that would be suitable to this part of the country?—Yes, particularly the mountainous part of the country. I consider the West Highland cattle the most suitable cattle.

Mr. John Malone.

June 7, 1907

Mr. John
Makins.

40377. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You mean the long horned cattle?—Yes.

40378. Do they sell so well as the Irish cattle?—They did not get a chance in Ireland. They were not allowed into Ireland. I chanced to bring in early. After that the country was closed against them. The Veterinary Department would not allow them across.

40379. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Why would not they allow them across?—They feared that they would bring in disease. They allow in now, but they would not allow it at that period. The ones I brought across did remarkably well.

40380. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is not the market for that class of cattle rather limited?—Partly, but all the highlands, the Grassmoor, and all round Stirling and Perth, they are easily sold.

40381. Do you know that it is as rare for ornamental purposes than anything else they are sold?—In some cases it is, but generally I would say, as far as my experience goes, that it is not.

40382. High prices have been paid for very picturesque-looking Highland cattle for the purpose of putting in parks like deer?—In some cases.

40383. Would they be suitable for giving milk?—No; they are poor.

40384. But very hardy?—Very hardy.

40385. They would not require to be put in all the year?—Yes. They can do on the mountains without any feeding except the grass.

40386. What would you get for each of these Highland cattle when selling them?—You can put them at as high a price as any if you get them fat.

40387. That is not a real commercial price?—Fat.

40388. They are bought entirely for their appearance?—No; they are bought for fattening.

40389. I have seen a Highland bull sold for as much as £23?—According to what they are worth—up to £33 if fat.

40390. In your opinion they would be a very good breed to import into Ireland?—Certainly.

40391. For what reason?—They are easily kept. Mountain men can keep them without any hay, and they thrive better in this country.

40392. Are you certain when you came to sell them you would always get a good market?—I brought forty to this country. I sold five to a man from Newmarket-on-Fergus. He kept them for fifteen months and got a very high price. He gave me £3 10s. apiece, and he got £13 15s. apiece after eighteen months' feeding. Another thirty-five I sold to Mr. George, a large grazier in Galway. He was so anxious for more of them that he said he would feed no other cattle. The ports were closed up against them for no reason. There was no disease in Scotland at the time.

40393. There were complaints in England and other places at the time that the ports were closed unnecessarily, but the authorities thought that there was some reason for it?—I would not say that. I thought it was a rather harsh thing to do.

40394. You think then that these cattle might be brought with advantage to this country?—They would come in thousands to this country at that time.

40395. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—We are talking of to-day?—If they were in at that time we would have plenty to-day.

40396. They are not kept out now?—During the last two years a small number have been brought in. You have to go through certain conditions, get a veterinary opinion, and make a statement that they have not mixed with foreign cattle, and so on.

40397. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Have you ever made any representations to the Board of Agriculture as to the importation of these Highland cattle to see if you could get them in?—I did not.

40398. Do you think they would be opposed to it?—I don't think they would. If they know the value of it they must do it.

40399. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—But is only as bulls and a few cows for breeding that you would bring them in?—To put them on the mountains.

40400. Because if you brought them in large numbers they would compete with grey over beasts here; it is only for breeding purposes?—Yes.

40401. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It is a fact that they live where other cattle would not live?—Yes. Mountain men cannot feed over Kerry cows without giving them hay. The Highland cattle require nothing special ex-

cept when the snow is on the ground, when they have to get a couple of pounds of cake.

40402. Mr. KAVANAGH.—How long have you been cattle dealing?—Close on thirty years I have been mixed up with the cattle business.

40403. How does the price of store cattle now compare with the price thirty years ago?—It varies sometimes. This year it is not so bad. It was worse this time twelve months.

40404. Take the price of cattle now and thirty years ago?—There is a great difference corresponding with the price of beef then and the price of beef now.

40405. Are the stores much cheaper now than they were thirty years ago?—Yes. They would come in line with the price of beef.

40406. Is beef cheaper to-day that it was thirty years ago?—Indeed it is. I remember it went at 24 10s. a cwt. in Scotland at the time.

40407. Not according to the statistics?—I saw it. I saw the cattle bred. You can find it in the papers.

40408. Mr. KAVANAGH.—I am referring to a paper that Mr. Bailey, the Estates Commissioner, put in evidence before the Commission, according to which if you compare the prices in 1882—that is the year that the valuation of Ireland was made—and an average between 1861 and 1905, there has been a large increase in the price of beef.*

40409. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Since 1905 it has further increased?—It is the best prices now they have got down.

40410. Mr. KAVANAGH.—He also says that cattle as compared with cows were much more valuable in 1905 than in 1882?—I would not agree with that.

40411. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Your memory does not go back to 1882?—Not at all; to about 1875 or so. We did not know in those days of American beef, but now we have plenty of live cattle coming from America.

40412. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Speaking as a purchaser of beef, I am afraid that I have to pay now to-day than I had to pay thirty years ago?—That may happen, too.

40413. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Are stores not considered rather high now?—They are a little dear, particularly conditioned cows.

40414. We had evidence that prices have almost fallen by half in the last thirty years; would you agree with that?—They are cheaper now.

40415. As much as half?—I would not say that.

40416. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is it your evidence to the Commission that such cattle as would be sold in the County Clare are cheaper now than they were thirty years ago?—Yes.

40417. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Did you know the County Clare thirty years ago?—Yes.

40418. Mr. KAVANAGH.—How much cheaper are the cattle now?—About £3 10s. or £3 apiece in some cases; well-bred yearlings I remember very dear; that is the top-top class.

40419. Do good cattle hold their price now the same as then?—Certainly not. There is £3 difference in high-bred cattle and in heifers as against thirty years ago.

40420. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Did your experience in Scotland lead you to inquire into the method of fattening cattle there?—Yes; I had a great deal to do among farmers.

40421. You know the method followed there?—Yes.

40422. It is a little different from what they do in Ireland?—It is entirely different. They feed entirely on in Scotland.

40423. That is not done to any extent in Ireland?—It is not.

40424. Do the stall-fed cattle in Scotland fetch higher prices than cattle from other places?—Yes.

40425. How much per head?—Reckoning by the cwt. it might be a half acregain a cwt. That is for what they call top beef.

40426. Why don't they do something like that in Ireland to get that high price?—I suppose that they don't know.

40427. It involves a good deal of trouble and labour attending on cattle?—Yes, and also tillage. They till a lot in Scotland; they don't here. I think in many cases tillage would be very useful in this country for fattening cattle.

40428. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—They stall-feed them in the winter?—Yes.

40429. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—If they stall-feed cattle

* See Appendix to Third Report of the Commission (Vol. 2414, 1907), p. 245, at seq.

they would be obliged to till to get wintering for sheep?—Yes.

40630. And for that they would get the manure for the land?—Yes.

40631. Do you think they would be opposed to it?—Yes.

40632. How do you account for the fact that this system is not more largely used in Ireland?—The people are not used to it. They did not know it, and the grass in Ireland is more fattening, perhaps.

40633. They want more to the fattening of the grass around?—Yes, and to raising the stores.

40634. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Have you no experience of anybody who stall-feeding in Ireland?—Yes, plenty.

40635. How has it answered?—Fairly well. I am satisfied that it paid.

40636. When a fat beast goes over to England it is some of its value knocked off?—Decidedly.

40637. How much would you say—ten shillings?—Yes, and 2s. They would lose a lot in the journey.

40638. Have you any experience of stall-fed cattle being killed in this country and sent over to England as meat?—Very little. It is not practised much.

40639. Would it save the weight?—Yes.

40640. Have you ever known it done?—Very little.

40641. Have you seen it done at all?—I might say as to Scotland I did not. I have not as much knowledge of the London market, but I did not ever hear of it being done. They might do it from Dublin sometimes. They got from London up to Glasgow sometimes. According as they get cheaper in one market they will send it to another. It is not adopted between Ireland and England and Scotland as far as I know, and I have travelled the whole road many a time. The other thing I wish to bring under your notice is the sheep. You send a great deal of them across to this country, and you ought to urge on them to feed on the mountains here the black-faced horned sheep and the chevots. These are two classes of sheep that would be very suitable for the mountains, particularly in Clare and all through the West. There is mountain ranging from here fourteen or fifteen miles to the vicinity of Limerick, and you won't get a Scotch sheep on the whole of that except with one nose.

40642. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—On these mountains there are no sheep?—Yes.

40643. The mountains are practically waste in consequence?—Yes. It is alarming how the money goes across to Scotland for sheep. It has only just commenced, and in a few years it will represent a very large amount, and all those could be raised in Ireland. Here are the figures (producer's share).

40644. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—This is a statement showing by Irish ports the number of sheep and lambs imported into Ireland from Scotland during the eleven months; what sheep are these?—These are mixed chevots and black-faced lambs. There are a few crosses, but they are chiefly chevot lambs and chevot ewes.

40645. Your point is that by importing some rams you might breed them here instead of importing them from elsewhere?—Yes. That means 250,000 and more, and it will be a great thing; and the people on the mountains in this part of the country could supply these and more.

40646. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You are aware that in parts of Scotland the mountain grazing is the most valuable of all, because of the sheep?—Certainly; and they are not working it here in this country. Scotland is, and it is possible that they have two or three sales at the end of these seasons. They give prizes for the best on these lands, and they are improving every year. In the west of Ireland and in the mountainous parts of Clare, I see nothing that would suit better.

40647. What could be done to encourage those people with mountain grazing to put sheep on them?—A Board should do it.

40648. Do you mean the Board of Agriculture or the Congested Districts Board?—Both.

40649. Mr. KAVANAGH.—How could they encourage people to do it?—By bringing them across.

40650. You have to show people that there is money in it first?—Here is 250,000 sent over to Scotland for what could be got in Ireland. You could feed that number on portions of the hills of East Clare. And this thing is only in its infancy. Next year you may have double the amount.

40651. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What is being done with these sheep?—The ewes are put on the

good lands; there is a horse ran let run with them, and the lambs are generally sold fat. I have experience of that. Mr. Hagan is trying that game in this country. I bought them in the commencement. They are paying him well. The ewes are worth £2 a year, considering the couples and the prices they make.

40652. Is this your point: there are mountains in the neighbourhood which are not turned to account in any way because black-faced sheep are not put upon them?—That is my point.

40653. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That could be met by the Board of Agriculture bringing that before the Irish farmers and pointing out to them the way in which it is done in Scotland?—Yes, and by importing some of them themselves, the same as they are showing on the Shorthorn that is not suitable at all for poor districts.

40654. It would require on the part of the people knowledge of how to deal with sheep. It is not all farmers in Ireland who know this. They would require to learn by experience?—Yes. It is very hard to make them do it, but I think the Galway men are more up to it; also I would say in the North of Ireland they are more up to it; but as this part of the country it would take a little time before they could do it.

40655. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You say that the Congested Districts Board or some other body should import these sheep?—Certainly.

40656. That is exactly what is being done?—They could be raised in Ireland.

40657. Why don't they breed from the sheep that are brought over. Here you have 45,000 sheep of the sort you think should be bred here imported in a single year. Why don't the Irish farmers breed from them when you have got them on the spot?—They don't understand it. They have not got them at all.

40658. It is not a question of the Board importing more, but the Board teaching the Irish farmers that this large importation should be used for breeding?—Yes, but they should get help in some way or be stimulated by the Board. They are doing other jobs not as essential as that. They are showing the Shorthorn on the mountains, though the world knows that it is not a suitable animal for the mountains.

40659. You say it is not a good thing for Ireland that these things should be imported instead of being bred on the spot, and your remedy is that some Government Board should import some more?—Quite so.

40660. I want to put it to you: here is the material of breeding as many of these sheep as are suitable to your mountains. What you really want is that the Board or some competent authority should teach the Irish farmer when he has imported these Scotch chevot sheep to breed from them over here?—Quite so, on this mountain land, and then come down to the good lands.

40661. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is the fattening of lambs for the butcher increasing?—Yes, and increasing remarkably well.

40662. Before they were killed until two years, and they now fatten lambs and sell at auction?—Yes. These small Scotch sheep are good runners. One of them can fatten a pair of lambs while our own can do nothing of the kind.

40663. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I notice that the importation of lambs to Derry is 5,566. I suppose that most of these are black-faced lambs for the mountain?—Yes.

40664. You would be quite right in thinking that they are a useful kind of sheep for moorland, but the wool on black-faced sheep with long horns is not worth wool?—It is not, but it is useful for the pasture.

40665. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—At present I understand that these lambs are taken from Scotland for the purpose of fattening them in Ireland after they are weaned?—Yes.

40666. They are not kept for breeding at all?—In some cases the ewes come for breeding. The lambs are kept to make them into hoggets and sell fat. They generally keep them for about a year.

40667. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you say that the lambing season here is as good as in Scotland?—If carried out in the same way it would be as good, and better. The mountains are more fertile for sheep. I hope you will look into this, because as long as you are without doing it it will be a big loss to the congested districts.

June 7, 1885.

Mr. John
Mahan.

June 7, 1907.

Mr. Michael
MacDonagh.

40956. **Sir FRANCIS MOWATT**—Are you a farmer?—No. I live at Clontagh, Scariff, with a brother of mine, who is a small farmer. I represent the electoral division of Liscacra South, in the Scariff Union, as one of the Rural District Councilors. The division consists of only eleven holdings, varying from 250 to 25. It is on Mr. James Walsh's estate, Mountshannon, which estate is now offered for sale by the landlord to the tenants, and agreements have been entered into at twenty-two years' purchase of second term rents.

40957. Do you mean to say that the tenants have agreed to that?—Some of them.

40958. Negotiations are still going on?—Yes. Six tenants in this division have refrained from consenting to any agreement for the following reasons. In this electoral division is a large grazing farm, the valuation of which is £50 5s., and contains about seventy acres. In the spring of 1905 the landlord gave this farm to a man named Bagler. Previous to that year this farm used to be devoted to grass, and a part of it saved up for hay, which used to be sold to the adjoining tenants, they putting their yearlings on grass there from May to November each year, at so much per month, and buying the hay for fodder the following winter. This grass farm is divided into two sections; about one-fourth of it lies above the main road, and behind this section live three families whose only means of access to the road is through a river for about half a mile. This river is, I believe, the third largest in East Clare. Nevertheless, through this the people have to trudge to Mass, or wherever they go. About sixteen years ago the landlord gave these tenants a road through this section of the grass farm, which they enjoyed till about twelve months ago, when the new tenant turned them back into the river again. They have now not even a footpath to the main road save through this river, where sometimes a heavy flood lasts for weeks. This is how the Land Act of 1903 has worked in this locality; these six tenants will never sign purchase agreements until this new tenant will be dispossessed, and the land divided amongst them, which it does, instead of creating a new tenancy of it, it would make the holdings economic, and they would have a chance of living in their own country. I think that compulsion is necessary to have the untenanted land divided properly amongst the people. I also ask that this division be scheduled as a congested district.

40959. The landlord, sixteen years ago, gave the existing tenants a right of way over this grazing?—Over a part of it.

40960. He then let his grazing farm, or sold it to a new tenant?—He gave it to him in some way that I cannot understand.

40961. He gave him the freehold of it?—I presume so. He has it.

Mr. MICHAEL MACDONAGH examined.

40962. Then it became the property of this new man?—Yes.

40963. And the tenant's right of way was not established because the time during which it had existed was not long enough; twenty years has not elapsed to establish the right of way?—Yes.

40964. Now these tenants have no way out except across the river?—Yes, and it is the third largest in the County Clare, and there are often floods there for a week, and the people cannot go out to fair, Mass, or market.

40965. You say that six of the tenants refuse to sign the purchase agreements until the three families thus affected get back their right of way?—Yes, and until this grass land is divided among the small tenants.

40966. But it belongs now to the man to whom the landlord has given it?—Yes; he is living there right enough. I always understood that that was the spirit of the Act. It is two miles from the demesne.

40967. If the landlord has given this seventy acres to the new man, how can he take it away from him?—It is a very grievous thing that these unfortunate men are living there without a right of passage through this place.

40968. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—You don't know what kind of tenure the new occupier has?—I do not.

40969. Your point is that it would be according to the spirit of the Act of 1903 that that land should be taken up and the right of way restored to the three families, and the land itself divided among the small occupiers.

40970. That is what you wish to convey?—Yes.

40971. Our chairman, and the rest of us, are in this difficulty, that we don't know, and you cannot tell us, what the tenure of this new man is?—Yes. There was an eviction there about forty years ago, and since then, until the new man came, the land was there for the use of the small tenants who lived in the neighbourhood.

40972. On what township is that?—Clontaghmeung.

40973. The only untenanted land in Clontagh in this return which we have is 50 acres 3 rods 38 perches, and the owner is given as Flann J. HUBBERT. No, the owner of this land is Mr. Walsh. These poor men cannot get out of their places. We have no ballistics in this part of the world.

40974. **Sir FRANCIS MOWATT**—All we can do is to take the evidence and record it. Is your brother one of the three tenants?—He is.

40975. He does not know what is the position of the man between him and the highway?—I believe he does not.

Mr. PATRICK KEENE examined.

40976. **Sir FRANCIS MOWATT**—Where do you reside?—At Clontagh, Mountshannon—I represent the electoral division of Mountshannon.

40977. Are you a farmer in that division?—Yes, I have 36½ acres. My rent is £7 on second judicial term, and my valuation is £3 10s.

40978. Your district is already scheduled as "congested"?—Yes.

40979. Tell us what you want to say?—The congested electoral division of Mountshannon consists of five townlands, four of which are situate on the estate of John V. George. There are fifty tenants in this district, thirty of whom occupy holdings under £5 valuation and over forty under £10 valuation. The holdings are in most cases small and poor, consisting of a few patches of reclaimed mountain, with a few acres of healthy mountain attached. The cottages usually buy some hay, and put their little cattle to grass by the month. Emigration has hitherto been their only hope. As soon as the children are able they go to service or earn daily hire, and when grown up they go to America. These holdings greatly need to be enlarged by the addition of a few acres of arable and meadow land. Migration is necessary, and some of the people, especially the young, would be willing to migrate. There is

a large tract of mountain and some untenanted or demesne land in the locality which, if acquired at a fair price by the Congested Districts Board or the Estate Commissioners, would go far to relieve the congestion of the district. The mountain, which is in the hands of the landlords, consists of about ten or eleven hundred acres, and has been offered to the tenants. Negotiations for sale are in progress on this estate.

40980. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Do the tenants grow on that at present?—Yes.

40981. **Sir FRANCIS MOWATT**—Do they pay for it?—Yes.

40982. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—Is the payment separate from the rent?—Yes.

40983. If the holdings were sold to the tenants would the tenants acquire the right of grazing on this mountain?—It appears that they would, according to the terms offered to them.

40984. And according to the terms that they are willing to accept?—But the mountain in itself, I am afraid, would not make their holdings economic.

40985. But they would like to have it such as it is?—It is better than nothing. Their future position would be much worse if they did not get it.

Mr. Patrick
Keene.

40006. In addition to that you would desire to see the grass land made available for the enlargement of holdings?—Yes.

40007. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Did you also say there was a grazing farm in that district?—There are lands in the demesne all unrented; it is situated lower down, partly by the margin of the lake, and it is let for grazing now and meadowing for the last ten or fifteen years.

40008. There is this grazing by the lake in addition to the meadowing?—Yes; one division has been let to the tenants on an outside estate. There is a river running through this district which is causing considerable waste to several holdings. If this river could be cleaned and banked so as to keep it from cutting curves in the adjoining land it would be a work of local utility.

40009. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What is the name of the river?—It flows into Lough Derg, a little east of Mount Shannon. There are also two old Board of Works roads running through this district, which, if repaired, would be of use. The road running from Derrygon Lower to Bohinch is one of the most useful. There are ten families on either side of this old Board of Works road, also it is leading into fifty acres of a bog, from which all the people of Mount Shannon get their turf. The same applies to the road from Derrygon to Derrygonan.

40010. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What are the terms of purchase for which negotiations are now going on?—The landlord has offered to take twenty-two years' purchase on second judicial rents, and I think fifteen upon non-judicial. There are not many first judicial rents. A good many of them have signed preliminary agreements, but a minority have refused to sign.

40011. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The negotiations suppose that this mountain would go to the tenants?—Yes.

40012. Have the tenants requested the owner to sell direct to the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board?—They have suggested that to the owner, but he has declined that.

40013. Would not there be this advantage in either of these bodies buying direct? They would have this grass for enlargement of holdings?—Yes; the Congested Districts Board has been communicated with in connection with this estate. They declined to interfere, as the estate had not been offered to them for sale. I have a reply to that effect.

40014. At all events the tenants did ask the Congested Districts Board to intervene?—Yes.

40015. And the Board replied that they could not, as the estate had not been offered to them?—Yes.

40016. Did the tenants ask the owner at any time to sell to the Congested Districts Board?—I could not say that, but they asked him to get it into the hands of the Estates Commissioners, and they would abide by the arbitration.

40017. That would in effect be the same thing. The importance to the tenants of selling either to the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board would be that the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board would have this grass land divided among the green-mountain landholders, putting upon each of them an instalment to repay the price of it?—Yes. There is another electoral division—Inishcaltra North—in which the same conditions prevail as in the division to which I refer. I am of opinion that the two other electoral divisions of this parish—namely, Inishcaltra North and Inishcaltra South, ought to be dealt with as congested districts, all the conditions of congestion being there. On the Hibbert estate, most of which is situated in Inishcaltra North, there are about 80 tenants, 38 of whom are under £10 valuation and 18 under £5 valuation. Nearly all the small tenants live in one townland (Skerrane). They buy inferior hay, and put their little cattle to graze on a large tract of mountain to the rear of their holdings.

40018. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do they pay extra for that?—Yes. Emigration is the rule on this estate also. Migration is essential in this case. I am of opinion that the mountain held at present by the landlord ought to be bought up by the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners for stripping out among the tenants. There should be compulsory sale. Bohinch Mountain, where the Sullane people graze their cattle, is a mile distant from their holdings. Very often they have to travel three miles over this coarse pasture to find their cows at milking time. For this grazing they pay one pound per year.

40019. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is there a Parish Committee in your district?—No.

40020. In any of the Mountain Shannon districts is there a Parish Committee?—No.

40021. In the case of migration do you think the people would be willing to move far?—They would prefer to get some enlargement of their holdings if possible. The young people would prefer migration very much to emigration.

40022. But it would have to be the whole family if there was migration at all. Suppose you could not get land in the district, do you think any of the people would be willing to move a distance far away?—Some of them would.

40023. It is impossible to carry out a scheme of migration unless the people are willing to move?—Of course.

40024. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Not only that the people are willing to move, but that the people of the district to which they are moved are willing to receive them?—Yes.

40025. Mr. KAVANAGH.—There is not enough untenant land in your district to make all the green-mountain into economic holdings, and you would have to move some?—Probably you would.

Mr. JAMES DUNNELL examined.

40026. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?—At Drimmon, Broadford. I represent Mr. O'neary, who was to have come here, but he is sick. I have here a list of some of the tenants under £5 valuation, and also a list of the big grass farms in the locality. It is in the Tuile naic. In the Killybeg electoral division, in the townland of Bally-McDonnell, there are three partners who hold fifteen acres, with a valuation of £6 15s. 6d.; it is a mountain common between them.

40027. How do they so come upon it?—They have it in common.

40028. Do they pay rent in common?—Yes.

40029. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Have they been there a long time?—Longer than I remember.

40030. Are they brothers?—They are not—they are all different names—they are neighbours.

40031. Do they live on this holding?—They do not; they have small holdings at present near Oat. It is common grazing.

40032. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—They have separate white holdings?—Yes; Catherine Fleming, Matthew McNamara, and John Callinan have 2 acres 3 rods and 33 perches in common, and there is only five shillings valuation on it.

40033. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You need not go through all the cases; you have a list of small occupiers who have small greenings in common, apart from their own individual holdings?—Yes; they are all under £5 valuation. We want to let you see that the place is poor. Here are some big ranches in the same division.

40034. One is 246 acres; valuation, £175; to whom does that belong?—That is Kilgorey; it belongs to Mr. Daniel O'Connell.

40035. That is on the eleven months' system?—Yes.

40036. Here is another: 130 acres; £70 valuation; is that on the eleven months' system?—Yes.

40037. And the third—346 acres, £182 valuation; is that also on the eleven months' system?—Yes.

40038. So that practically there is about 750 acres of grass land?—We have more in places that are not mentioned there belonging to a Mr. Smith. He is an absentee; he has 335 acres at £124 15s. There is another belonging to a Mr. O'neary—301 acres, at £40 14s., and there is another here belonging to Mr. O'neary also, he let it a year ago.

40039. There are practically twelve hundred acres of grass land?—Yes.

June 24, 1907.
Mr. Patrick
Kew.

Mr. James
Dunnell.

June 7, 1905.
Mr. James
Driscoll.

41030. Let on the eleven months' system?—Every bit of it. There is not a single one of them who has a bit of it in his own hands.

41031. Your point is that they should be purchased and divided among the small holders?—Yes, to a great many of them, who are very small.

41032. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Who require enlargement?—Yes.

Rev. J. J. Macrann examined.

Rev. J. J.
Macrann.

41033. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?—At Turganady. There are some matters to which I would like to draw attention. The first is this question of migration. I heard a great deal of talk about it here to-day, and about the danger of the people not availing themselves of it if it were in operation. I think that is a great mistake. If the people got an opportunity of migrating they would be only too glad to go, even to adjoining counties.

41037. You say that of your own experience; have you talked to people about it?—Yes; I have been talking to a number of people about it for many years. I have twenty-eight years' experience among the people, and in six counties. My experience is they would be only too glad, where they are badly off, to go to other parts of the country, if they only got an opportunity of doing so—in other counties, and even to other provinces—only too glad, if a number of poor miserable people on the mountain sides around here could better themselves by doing so. Running along yesterday, coming from Ennis, you might have noticed that the country was very poor and congested. In another portion on the mountain side the people are also very badly off. I don't know how they can ever live there at all. I don't see how any improvement can be effected in the nature of the holdings; because the land is of such a nature that it is almost impossible to effect any radical change in the holdings to enable people to live substantially well there. The water is coming right through the mountain, and any amount of cultivation won't bring it to such a standard that people can live on it. There would be no difficulty about migration if you get the land. Give us the good land to put the people on, and they will go there instead of going to America; they would be very glad to take it up.

41038. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Were you present to-day when the Chairman asked one or two witnesses whether the people of the district to which they sent migrants would be willing to take them?—I don't believe there will be any difficulty in that way, because the people in these districts where you take up land for the purpose of putting people on it, are fully supplied with land already, and except they want more than they are able to cultivate, and more than is good for them, and more than ever, in the present condition of things I would permit them to have, they should have no objection. It is a great pity that we have not any legislation about confining people to a certain amount of land. It is a great pity here through the country that Parliament does not make a law prohibiting a man from trying to manage more than a certain amount of land; because you have nine-tenths of the people in starvation while the other one-tenth have too much; and it is to the detriment of the country that they should have as much as they have.

41039. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Have you any limit in your mind?—I would say a hundred acres are as much as it is good for a man to work.

41040. It may depend a little on the nature of the land?—It should be good land; 100 acres of fairly good land are as much as I would give to any man to work, and as much as any man could work without it being a detriment to the community. I would say forty or fifty acres for an average farmer would be just as much as he could manage with satisfaction to himself and his family and the community. In considering this matter the question of the community at large is the matter that seems to be overlooked altogether. It is a matter that, in the first place, should

41033. They would be willing to pay an equitable price for the enlargement?—They would.

41034. Would this land be sufficient to enlarge all the small occupiers in the district?—It would give a share to the worst ones.

41035. What about the balance of the occupiers; would they be willing to migrate to some distance?—I would not be able to tell you that. If they were made better off they would be glad to go.

be attended to, the benefit that would result from the division of the land among the people.

41041. You think that is overlooked?—I am rather inclined to think it is. I don't see much attention given to it either in the press or at public meetings. Something like that I think is necessary for the Government to interfere and make a law that a man should not hold more than a certain amount of land. In the case where congestion and poverty exist among the people the necessity of going away will be avoided if you restrict farmers to a certain amount of land, say 100 acres or thereabouts, and the rest of the land be divided among the poor people, to take them from their condition.

41042. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—When you migrate people to grass lands at a distance you would be careful at the outset to enlarge the holdings of any small men whose holdings needed enlargement in the district, to which you migrate them. Would you begin, by attending to the needs of the locality first?—Certainly; to a certain extent I would give them enlargements; if they were small holdings I would give them a division to bring them up to a certain point, and after that then I would migrate the people from other districts. I wish also to refer to the drainage. There was a question this morning as to what was to be paid, in order to repay the necessary expenditure; a farmer witness did not seem to understand it. I can speak on the subject. For the past twelve months it has engaged my attention very much; and the people are only too willing to pay even to the last penny for interest on the money necessary to settle this drainage question, and it would be well worth the while of the farmer as they would benefit two or three-fold. But they would expect, in a matter of such a large and general expenditure as £45,000, that is contemplated in what is called the Scariff Drainage, that the Government would come to the rescue and give them some assistance free; but if they are not prepared to do that then I believe they will alter a little time. Now that the report of the Arterial Drainage Commission has been made and printed, and every district has had its needs put forward, I believe the Government will assist the different localities, and the people will be prepared to pay whatever further extra they have to pay; and it would be well worth their while to do it without murmuring. The drainage question has been a most pressing one for over forty years. Recently, when this Canal Commission began to sit, the people of the district thought a favourable opportunity was afforded them of having this drainage question brought to the front again. I put myself into communication with the Canal Commission in London, and put all the evidence I could before them, in connection with this canal question. The idea was to run a canal along the river here to Tulla, which would serve not only as a medium that the people wanted so badly as they have no railway, but would also act as a drainage for the whole country. In fact, it would serve a double purpose. I had a great lot of writing with the Secretary of the Canal Commission, and for a time they contemplated that I should go to London and give evidence before them. After some further communication with them, sending a full report of the evidence to put before them, they said they were coming to Ireland, and would examine me there. If they come I will only be too glad to appear before them personally. Here, in the first place, we have in the village of Turganady, in the parish in which I am, a beautiful stone. I beg of you when you are going to KILBOE this evening

to pull up at the rock and take a view of the place. It is a beautiful scene. It was wrecked years ago, and it is a great pity that something is not done with it by some Board or other—I hope by the Congested Districts Board. Later on I hope that it will establish some kind of a factory. We were thinking of a woollen factory for a time. Four or five hundred people could get work in this if only the appliances were there and a little capital to start with and the people to instruct us. It would relieve congestion there by the use of these things that nature placed at our disposal. Clare and the County Galway are two of the best counties in Ireland for wool. All our wool is being shipped away; and if local committees were got to put before the people the necessity of wearing the Torrington trousers—if I may call it so—or tweeds or anything else, the same as your lordship established in Donegal, it would be a great advantage. There is a great run on the Donegal material now; it is sold in the shops in Clare. If you have not a Donegal tweed they will run out of the shop as if you had fired a revolver at them. I hope the time will come when we will have a factory over there with four or five hundred people working in it, and all our wool manufactured at home. We will expect to do that later on, when we hope, as the result of your coming here to-day, to be placed under the Congested Districts Board; when we will expect by making application to the Board, that they will send us an expert to see what will be best for us; and if we consider that the woollen business is the best for us, we will ask the Board under

these circumstances to help us to buy any machinery and send us people to educate our people, and keep them at home from America. The working of it is quite easily done. We have here side by side with the Scariff an old flour mill, and this flour mill was burned some years ago. Electric power could be very easily generated there by water power and transmitted to our factory at Torrington, setting the whole machinery at work. Father Halpin has been so kind recently as to establish an elementary class here to help our poor people to keep them at home. The ladies from all the parishes from Killalee to Mountshannon have taken an interest in it. Fifty or sixty or seventy girls have been employed in this room which Father Halpin placed at their disposal. They have already commenced to earn money, and later on we all expect that they will earn a good deal of money.

41043. Is there not an exhibit in Dublin from this centre?—Yes. I know a great deal about the people of all the parishes about here and about the landlords, and I am very glad to be able to state before you here to-day that there is a grand disposition existing upon the part of the landlords and the tenants to buy and to come to terms—a magnificent disposition to meet each other, and making terms and arranging to have the tenants becoming peasant proprietors. There is very little land to be divided around here. There is a great deal in the district of which the last witness was talking, but in this district there is no land for distribution.

Mr. JOHN M'ANULTY examined.

41044. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You desire to make a statement?—Yes. I am Grand Canal Agent at Scariff. I understand it was expected I would give some evidence about the canal service to Scariff, and the difficulty of getting in goods in the winter time. The canal is between Scariff and Killalee; our chief difficulty is with floods. The river being narrow, the steamer is unable to force her way against it. We have to lie down the river several days sometimes when the floods are fierce.

41045. When you speak of the period of flooding what months of the year do they occur in?—January and February and sometimes March, and December, of course.

41046. For three or four months each year transit is pretty uncertain?—Yes.

41047. And for the other eight or nine months it is fairly certain?—Yes; there are fogs and other things, of course, over which we have no control—fogs out on the lake.

41048. There are chiefly in the months you have mentioned?—Yes.

41049. Therefore, may I take it that for about eight months in the year there is no serious obstacle in carrying on the canal service?—There is no serious obstacle in these eight months. The river is a kind of Tynanagh Brook, growing a very narrow gut, thereby rendering the little steamers powerless to go against it.

41050. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What is the length of that?—About three-quarters of a mile before you come to the quay.

41051. How near does the steamer come to the town?—Within a few hundred yards of it.

41052. Is there a regular traffic here or is it just hiring a vessel for the voyage?—There are three boats certain a week, but there are fogs, floods, and storms.

41053. What do you charge for carrying one cart to Killalee?—I don't know what they charge to Killalee—about 6d. or 8d. under 3 cwt. The freight is cheaper for, than for anything over it. You get a tonnage rate for anything over 3 cwt.; for under that you get a scale charge.

41054. It is cheaper to send a large quantity?—Yes.

41055. Are there intermediate calls between this and Killalee?—No.

41056. Does the same vessel go afterwards up the lake?—There is a service from here to Dublin.

41057. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is the trans-shipment up to Dublin equally affected by floods?—Not on the canal; until you come down to the lake you will be held by storms. Of course any vessel will be held by storms. That is our chief obstacle; and the town has been very often in a bad state owing to the scarcity of food.

41058. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Would it be possible to make a canal from here to the lake?—I understand that a gentleman, a Mr. Reid, had plans drawn up to make a new cutting, to avoid the old stream. That would have been a great benefit to the town. These plans, I believe, were with the Board of Works, but I suppose they could not be found to-day.

41059. Would the canal require to have a lock on it?—Yes. We have an immense current of water from the upper country; the water is held up in two large basins, one six miles; and the other about nine miles away.

Mr. DANIEL RYAN examined.

41060. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Where do you reside?

—At Killalee, Broadford.

41061. Are you a farmer?—Yes. I have about forty-six Irish acres; my rent is £20; my valuation is £22 6s. The holding is in Limerick No. 2 Rural

District. There is one property belonging to Mr. Bentley, which comprises 250 acres of grass land on the eleven months' system; then Mr. Phibbs has twenty-five acres. These are surrounded by a great lot of small holdings on which there are thirty

June 7, 1907

Rev. J. J. Maguire.

Mr. John M'ANULTY.

Mr. Daniel Ryan.

June 7, 1907.

Mr Daniel
Ryan.

families, whose valuation averages from £3 to £9. They average generally there about six in family; and perhaps they may be more. They have very poor poor places on the mountain side. Sometimes they will have a little crop and more times they won't, according to the year. This grass land is set on the eleven months' system at present. The greater part of it was in meadow some time ago, and the landlord used to sell the hay off it to these tenants at a high price. Now they have no hay to get, and they have to sell their little cattle before they are fit at all.

41062. Don't the eleven months' graziers take any cattle?—The farms are grazed by those who hold on the eleven months' system. Some time ago the landlord used to have hay on it and sell the hay to the tenants; now there is no hay on it, and these poor people have to pay a higher price for the hay outside, along with the bother of bringing it up a big hill.

41063. Mr. KAVANAGH.—The grazer does not take any cattle from the people all round?—No; he goes around the fairs and buys cattle and puts them on it.

41064. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Does not he buy the calves?—Sometimes he might, if they suited. If they did not, he would not; he would go to some other place. If the grass land could be broken up and divided among the small holders, it would improve them very much.

41065. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Who are the graziers?—One is John McDonnell.

41066. Is he a cattle dealer?—Yes.

41067. He jobs in cattle?—Yes; that is all that are grazing at present, the rest of the land is idle.

41068. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What you say is there are 280 acres of grass lands, and if that were divided among the small holders of that district it would bring them up to a living point?—It would fairly well. There is a beautiful slate quarry on some of the land that we and other tenants hold; and if that could be managed and worked properly it would cause great employment in the place. It is within half a mile of the village of Broadford. A great many slates were worked there. I was working it myself for a while, and it got too deep, and I could not work it.

41069. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You would be quite willing to give it up if it were going to be worked by somebody else?—Certainly, I would, to be sure. At the other side of the village there is an old mill site for the last thirty-yes years; it was worked by water power, and the weir is throwing back water on the land, and doing a great amount of damage.

The Commission adjourned.

EIGHTY-SECOND PUBLIC SITTING.

MONDAY, JUNE 10TH, 1907,

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.,

At 35, Dawson Street, Dublin.

Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUBLIN, Q.C.Y.O. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL, Q.C.B.; The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, Q.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., B.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

The O'Connor Door examined.

June 10, 1907.

42070. CHAIRMAN.—You have been nominated by the Landlords' Convention to give evidence here?—Yes.

42071. Your estate is in County Roscommon?—Yes. My place is Clonsilla, Castlebar. I am His Majesty's Lieutenant for County Roscommon. Although I have practised for some years at the English Bar I have had considerable experience in matters connected with land in the West of Ireland. I have for practically the whole of my life spent a large amount of my time in the West. Every year I have spent at least some months there. When I came of age my father made over to me a small property, and on his death, last June, I succeeded to his estate, and for many years previously I knew of all his dealings with his tenants, and have seen all the changes in land matters in my district, which includes part of a scheduled congested area. That small property made over to me by my late father was bought in the Landed Estates Court, and I wish to mention, having regard to the questions asked by Sir Anthony MacDonnell, in London, of persons who bought holdings at fifteen years' purchase and sold them at twenty-five, that this property was bought for £10,000. That included costs and everything. I have since sold that property under the 1903 Act for £3,800.

42072. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—What was the exact amount of the purchase money paid for the property?—The purchase price was £9,000 some hundreds, but with stamp duty, costs, and so on, the amount paid was somewhere about £10,000. I forget whether it was £80 over or under the £10,000. As you are no doubt aware, the purchase in ordinary sales pays the costs. But that is not so under the Land Act. It was bought subject to charges, and although it was sold for considerably more than £2,800 yet when the charges were paid off the actual receipts would represent about £2,800.

42073. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What was the date of the purchase for £10,000?—I could not tell you the exact date of the contract. The negotiations, which took some time, were in 1863-4.

42074. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—And when was it sold?—It was one of the first estates sold under the 1903 Act. The agreements were within a month of the Act coming into force, the tenants being anxious to buy. I may say that in the interval a large amount of money had been spent in improving the estate.

42075. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Was the whole estate sold?—Yes, the whole of the estate. It was not near the family property, which was seven or eight miles away. There was two townlands, and they were sold direct to the tenants under the Landed Estates Commission.

42076. CHAIRMAN.—Is there any explanation of the fall in price?—I think there is. In the first place, the estate was bought at a time when prices were high, and the drop in rents in the meantime has been enormous. The whole of the reductions in rent fall on the margin. What I mean is, the property was bringing in about £600 a year, and there was a head rent of £200. The rents were reduced, and the reductions fall on the £400. Although the reductions on the rents are only 30 per cent., the net receipts have fallen by

£200. But that is not an exceptional case. It is the case in a very large number of properties in Ireland. I am only giving that as an explanation.

42077. The head landlord's charges remain fixed and unaltered by the Act of 1881?—Yes.

42078. And the sub-landlord's interest becomes affected by the fall in rents?—Yes.

42079. And therefore, although the value of the property may be depreciated, the head landlord's income remains at the same amount?—Yes.

42080. That is the case with regard to Lord Leitrim's estate under Trinity College?—I dare say that is so. It is very much the case all over Ireland where there are fee-farm grants, and this was a fee-farm grant. This property brought in £580 originally, but the rents were reduced till it brought in only £400. Eventually the tenants got a little more reduction of rent by a mistake of the land agent.

42081. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—In 1863 the rents amounted to £580?—Yes, roughly.

42082. And they fell to about £450?—They fell to £400. I may say that within a year of the purchase a reduction of 3s. in the pound was given to the tenants all round. My father was always looked upon by the tenants as most reasonable. The tenants complained that the rents were too high, and he sent out two tenant farmers to value the whole property and fix rents.

42083. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—To what was your margin reduced at the time the estate was sold?—To £200.

42084. And then you got £4,000 for it?—I got £3,800, but of course that is including the bonus. I had a pull, of course, when I got the bonus on the head rent.

42085. It comes to this, that when the property was bought it was bought at sixteen years' purchase of the rents, and when it was sold it was sold at twenty years' purchase on your margin?—No, it was bought at a good deal more than sixteen years' purchase.

42086. The rent was £580, but the head rent was not bought; it was only the £200 that was bought?—Yes.

42087. Then you leave the £380 head rent out of it altogether?—Yes.

42088. And the £450 rent was bought for £10,000?—Yes.

42089. That would be over twenty years' purchase?—It would be about twenty-two years' purchase.

42090. When the estate was sold for £3,800 your margin was only £200?—Yes.

42091. And that is nineteen years' purchase?—Yes.

42092. And on that you got the bonus?—No, the bonus is included in the nineteen years' purchase. If I had not got the bonus I would have got next to nothing at all. As a matter of fact, if you put costs, expenses, and charges against the bonus the one comes to 15 per cent. and the other to 15; so there is nothing in it.

42093. CHAIRMAN.—Then the drop in the sale price is due to the reduction in the rents payable to you?—Yes, and largely due, as is the case in a huge number

The O'Connor Door.

June 16, 1907.
The O'Connor
Duo.

of estates in Ireland to the fact that the nominal owner has to bear a reduction on the whole, and I think fairly so. I am not complaining of that. I do not think it would be fair to make anybody else pay that.

41004. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—As how many years' purchase of the actual rents did you sell to the tenants?—Well, there were different agreements with the tenants. Some at sixteen, some at eighteen, some at twenty, and one or two at twenty-two. So I think it would work out at twenty years' purchase as a fair average.

41005. Was that on rents first reduced by the Land Courts, and then 3s. in the pound further by your father?—The rent in 1858 was not really £450, because within a year they were all reduced by 3s. 6d. the £1. Then in 1865 or 1866 my father gave to the tenants who signed fair rent agreements a further reduction of 3s. in the £1. The whole of the tenants practically signed but I believe the agent forgot to register any of these agreements. A large number of the tenants went into Court again and got a still further reduction. I think some of them got a third reduction. I may say the last reduction was not much, but the net result is that they had a great deal more reduction than most tenants got, because they had practically three fair rents fixed instead of two. Owing to the non-registration of the voluntary reductions, the tenants have really third term rents instead of second term rents.

41006. When you stated that the average years' purchase was twenty, you mean twenty years' purchase of the rents after their ultimate reduction?—Yes.

41007. I suppose you do not consider the original purchase in 1853 a good bargain?—No; I do not. I only mention that incidentally because of the point raised by Sir Antony MacDonnell regarding landlords buying cheap and selling dear. I think as many cases it is the other way—they bought dear and are selling cheap.

41008. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—But you won't deny that there are cases in the direction I suggested?—They are not very many, but I do not think because a man made a good or a bad bargain in the Landlord Estates Court it is a reason one way or the other against a fair bargain now.

41009. I am thoroughly in favour of fair value to the landlord and fair value to the tenant?—A little later on I will give you figures as to the costs on this estate.

41100. CHAIRMAN.—What is the first point you would like to bring before the Commission?—I propose to deal with the matters before this Commission under a number of headings. The first is in regard to the area of congestion. It appears to me that the definition in the 1891 Act does not coincide with the poverty-stricken districts which are intended to be dealt with. In one sense the statutory area is much too large, and yet it excludes districts which are so poor, or even poorer. I do not mean to say that some of these districts are not poor. But in some districts there is a good deal of feeling, which is not taken into the Poor Law valuation at all.

41101. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Might not a district be congested even where there is an industry, or in other words might not some operations of the Congested Districts Board be very beneficially carried on even where there is some industry?—Quite so, but it does not follow that where the valuation is under the mark, if they have other means of livelihood they are congested. For instance, I should think London, and even more so, New York, are congested in that sense.

41102. But should not the Board's operations be carried on in such places as well as in less favoured parts?—I do not dispute that. Of course, it is very hard to get a definition which will suit everywhere. The real point I am working is that the area is rather too large. It would be better to restrict it to townlands, because in electoral divisions you may find one part all right and another portion not so.

41103. But I wish to point out that it is not with agriculture alone that the operations of the Congested Districts Board are altogether concerned, but have such matters as the statutory improvement of the houses, which may be quite as necessary?—Quite so, but the definition deals solely with agriculture, and that is what I object to. I say you must take in

everything, and not say that a place is congested because the agricultural means of livelihood of the people are slender. That is the definition of the Board, and yet, as you point out, the Board deals with other sources of livelihood, and I submit they should also be considered.

41104. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Considering that agriculture is the main occupation of the people of Ireland you are not surprised that the Board in starting operations took a definition on agriculture alone?—I can quite see that. But I say there should be more latitude.

41105. You think the unit should be smaller than an electoral division?—Yes; the unit should be smaller, and further, I think it is very doubtful whether there should be a district considered at all, and whether the Congested Districts Board ought not to be given a free hand altogether to benefit such places as they thought fit, and as the resources permitted.

41106. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Would you say throughout the whole of Ireland?—Well, I would not limit them at any rate throughout the West of Ireland. That is my own personal view. I am not putting it forward on behalf of the Landlords' Convention. My own personal view would be to give the Board a free hand.

41107. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Would you say within the province of Connaught?—There is the objection to that that you would then exclude Donegal and Kerry, parts of which undoubtedly require assistance, and where the Board have unquestionably done and are doing very useful work. I think it would be a great mistake to exclude Donegal.

41108. When I asked you that question my mind was fixed on the purchase of estates?—I would, in that case, restrict the Board to Connaught.

41109. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—If it were supposed that in the main the scene of the operations of the Congested Districts Board were to be the western provinces, would it be easy to exclude Kerry and Donegal, and perhaps some of Clare, as now?—I think it could be done, but I say do not to them up. In the case of drainage schemes and such like, objection might be raised to a townland or district division, and there is no question that even with an electoral division the Board would have to go outside that if they are to do any good.

41110. CHAIRMAN.—If your suggestion were carried out the result would be that the Board would be operating all over the country in small patches because you can find poor townlands all over the country?—If you look at the map in the last volume of evidence you will see how they have been operating in patches.

41111. But that is practically all along the western seaboard, and if your suggestion were to be carried out the Congested Districts Board would have a free hand to deal with poor townlands wherever they could find them in Ireland. That would give most patchy operations?—I do not in any way suggest they should be bound to deal with poor places wherever they found them, but only where they think it advisable.

41112. They are not bound to deal with all the poor townlands at present, but if the Board had jurisdiction to deal with all poor townlands then it would be extremely difficult for them not to deal with a townland as poor as a townland in Roscommon or Mayo?—Boscon or later they could, but I think that having such a very large area would make it easier for them to exclude particular districts. If you draw out a map and say to the Board this is your district, that district is at present bigger than the Board can deal with at once unless there is a large augmentation of their funds; a townland or electoral division in that area comes and says—"We are in this area, what are you doing for us?" I know an electoral division in Roscommon where the Board are doing nothing, and the people have a much stronger case for insisting that something should be done than the people of some districts which have benefited. Now, if the Board had the whole country for the field of their operations, then they could say, "We must take things as we see fit and use our discretion. We are at present dealing with a part of the country which, in our opinion, requires our attention." I think that the bigger you make the area the less chance there is of pressure being put on the Board to go to a particular small spot.

41113. I do not wish to wander into a bigger subject, but take this as an illustration. As you know, at present the Board have power to purchase land within congested areas, or even outside congested areas, for the purpose of migration and the settlement of congested tenants. Now, unless you are going to restrict their operations in that respect your proposal amounts to this, that wherever there is a townland, as matter in what part of Ireland, you are to give the Board power to purchase land, perhaps in the immediate vicinity for the enlargement of holdings. That practically means that you propose to give the Board purchasing powers over nearly the half of Ireland, or in fact all Ireland?—Quite so. I quite see that, but at present they have purchasing powers over the whole of the country, only they cannot divide the land amongst those in the neighbourhood, and this gives trouble.

41114. Would it not be a great responsibility to put on a Board so constituted to give them power to buy land all over Ireland for the settlement of congestion in small areas wherever found?—No, because I do not think they would exercise or even be expected to exercise that power in respect of small plots here, there, and everywhere, but it would do away with some of the difficulties that at present exist. But even if you do not do that, then have townland units so that you can keep out of your schedule parts that have no necessity to be in, and include parts that ought to be in.

41115. Why should there be a definition at all?—That is practically what I am saying. Don't have any.

41116. Taking your point of view, I do not see the object of a definition even of a townland?—That is what I say.

41117. It seems to me that the more sensible way would be to make up your mind what is to be the area in which the Board should operate, either the whole of Ireland, as you suggest, or a restricted area as suggested by other people, and having settled that, then allow the Board to deal with congestion in that area in the best way they can without confining them to whether that congestion is in an electoral division or townland?—Quite so. Perhaps I did not express myself quite clearly. I said there were two propositions. First of all there would be no restriction as to limit of boundary. That is my own view, and I do not put it forward on behalf of others at all. In that case I have no definition, but in the case of a townland unpurchased use your absolute discretion. I would leave it to the discretion of the Board to deal with congestion wherever they found it necessary to do so. The other proposition was to deal with congestion, not in districts but in small poverty-stricken areas.

41118. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—When you used the word poverty did it merely escape you or did you use it intentionally?—I used it intentionally, meaning agricultural poverty in the sense in which we are dealing with it.

41119. CHAIRMAN.—What test would you have of poverty?—I would leave it to the discretion of the Board. I would not have a hard and fast rule. Now, if it is decided to adhere to congested divisions, and I can see that will probably be the plan, then I put forward the proposal to reduce the area of the unit, and have townlands instead of electoral divisions. If you are to continue the present system then I would favour a townland instead of an electoral division, but, personally I would prefer abolishing it altogether, but I see that there are difficulties in the way.

41120. If it were townlands would you adhere to the same poverty test of thirty shilling valuations?—No; I would rather leave it to the Board's discretion, because I think there are cases which the thirty shilling limit would include which ought not to be included, and, on the other hand, there are cases which that limit would exclude which ought not to be excluded. It does as a rough and ready test, but I would favour an inspection and confidential report to the Board, and let them deal with it. I would give them power to schedule and unschedule in that case.

41121. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is a townland a well-known entity in Ireland?—A townland is the ordinary entity in the West of Ireland.

41122. Because it is the smallest community?—Yes. If you go about among the country people they can

tell you the townland but not the electoral division. A man lives in. Most of them have not the ghost of a notion about the electoral division. They all know at once the townland a man lives in, but if you asked them on what electoral division a man lived in a great many cases they would not know.

41123. The townland boundaries are well known?—Yes; the boundaries are well known.

41124. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Your view seems to be that wherever outside the Western province a townland requires differential treatment the Congested Districts Board should be free to intervene and bestow that treatment on it?—Yes; not obliged, but free if they think fit.

41125. Would you favour the view which has been put before the Commission in the course of its sittings outside the congested areas that in poor districts in Tyrone, Antrim, or Down, say, the Department of Agriculture should have special funds to enable them to give to the county committees a special grant for those districts, so that through the County Committee the differential treatment would pass to the places requiring it. That is portion of the suggestion. It would be balanced by this—that in case of sales the Estates Commissioners would discharge in those districts the functions of the Congested Districts Board towards the congested, and the Congested Districts Board might anywhere in Ireland buy land for the purpose of enlarging the holdings of small people living on the margin whose holdings needed enlargement as well as of congested from the scheduled areas?—If you leave it to the County Committee to deal with you would have to take into account the amount of money given by the Treasury which would not be unlimited, and you would also have the townlands through their representatives making a claim for some of the money. If there was only a small amount of money going to each there would, I think, be a good deal of wastage in consequence of the money being cut up too much. It would be cutting up the distributing body into too many units. It might work well in one county and not in another. There would be too much personal pressure put on the members of the Committee from a large number of small districts. As to the rest of the proposal, it is very much what I am suggesting.

41126. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Did any special witness put forward what you have been outlining, my lord?

41127. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Not the whole of it by any one witness, but the portion which I first suggested to the O'Connor Don was put before the Commission at Newry. A witness suggested that certain districts required special differential treatment, and in a county like Down they might receive that treatment through the Department and the County Committee, but not out of the funds ordinarily allocated to the county for its agriculture and its industries. It was suggested that a special grant should be made to the county and pass through the County Committee for the benefit of small areas requiring special treatment.

41128. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Would the administration of the fund be under the control of the Congested Districts Board?

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—No; the County Committee. That was the suggestion, and I wished to ask the O'Connor Don what he thought about it?—My objection is that you would have too many small boards all over the country administering what must necessarily be a very small fund. There would be too many applicants, and they would all insist on their representatives on the County Committee seeing that they got their share and the very small sums which would necessarily have to be given to each district would not probably do a great deal of good.

41129. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But there would not be any multiplication of boards, because the County Committee already exists?—Quite so.

41130. CHAIRMAN.—Would it be necessary for the money to be administered by the County Committee. Might it not be administered direct by the Department?—I don't know.

41131. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—No doubt, the Department at present in congested areas have supplemental schemes which would correspond in character with the schemes which, according to this suggestion would be promoted in the non-scheduled areas, but in the carrying out of these schemes from the central office the County Committees

June 19, 1907.

The O'Connor Don.

June 10, 1907,
The O'Connell
Dun.

226. It is said, consulted. How far that is done I do not know personally—I do not think as a whole the Department's work in the poorer districts as quite as successful as that of the Congested Districts Board.

41133. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is it your opinion that the Congested Districts Board should do the work of the Agricultural Department?—Yes, assuming that the basis of districts is maintained, because, as I have said to Lord Dudley, my own plan would be not to have districts at all, but there is so much evidence in favour of districts, and it seems to be so much assumed that there will be districts I base my opinion on the assumption that the districts will be continued.

41134. Are you in favour of the Agricultural Department going out of the congested districts altogether, and leaving all that work to the Congested Districts Board, because you think the Congested Districts Board does better for the poorer man than the county schemes?—Yes, I may say I live on the border of a congested district. One side of my estate is congested and the other is non-congested, and where the Congested Districts Board have been operating there is very considerable improvement, but I cannot see very much result from the Department's work.

41135. You think the whole bulk of the evidence tends to that effect?—For the very poor the providing of bulls, sires, and so on, may do some good, but it does not do at all as much good as the work of the Congested Districts Board. The Department cannot do all these small things as well.

41136. Sir ARTHUR MACDONAGH.—Is there the same necessity for improvement in the non-congested area on the one side of your estate as in the congested area on the other side?—No, certainly not; but you will find in the non-congested area where there are very poor townlands or patches they are not benefited. I do not say there is the same necessity. In fact, it would be out of the question to do the same amount of work.

41137. CHAIRMAN.—The Department are, I think, rather altering their system so far as the poorer districts are concerned. They have, I believe, come to the conclusion that special supplementary schemes are necessary—I believe so, but they have not done anything about our part yet, so far as I am aware.

41138. I think they have only just begun to set the schemes in motion. What is the next point?—The statutory definition is based solely on the poor law valuation, and does not take into account means of earning a livelihood other than agriculture. For instance, the districts of Rathfriland, Crumragh, Belderg, Erris, Pullahonra, and Deebona, are all scheduled, regardless of the fact that agriculture is not the chief source of livelihood. On the other hand, there may be very congested and poor townlands which are not scheduled at all if they happen to be in the same electoral division with other rich and sparsely populated ones. The definition in the Irish Land Act, 1903, of congested estates is also defective, as it largely depends on how much mountain or bog happens to be on the estate, and takes no heed of the real poverty or condition of the inhabitants. As an example of both the above definitions, I refer to the electoral division of Cloonfower, which includes a portion of my Clonalis estate, which I have just sold to the Estates Commissioners. A great part of the electoral division of Cloonfower is in no sense congested, and yet the whole is scheduled. Again, the Clonalis estate is not a congested estate under the 1903 Act, although there are portions, particularly the townland of Cloonbonniff, which are very congested. There are a good many townlands on estates that are quite well to do, yet come under the definition of congested, because they have a very large amount of mountain or bog on them. Again, one or two big holdings will take an estate out of the definition, and that may be the very estate you want to buy as a congested estate in order to deal with these big holdings.

41139. What amendment would you suggest?—It is very difficult to get a definition to cover everything. I do not see how you can define it, but you can give more discretion and get the two definitions into line. I would be inclined to say, if the Board thought fit, any estate within the congested area.

41140. That would not mend it much?—Then I would add a portion of which is within the congested area.

41141. You object to the definition which makes the question of whether an estate can be called congested or not depend upon whether there is a certain amount of bog or mountain on that estate?—Yes.

41142. Therefore if there is a poor estate outside the congested district which the Estates Commissioners would like to buy as a congested estate it could not be considered a congested estate under the present definition unless it contained a certain amount of bog or mountain, and your view is to leave out the requirements as to bog or mountain?—Yes.

41143. How would you then define what is a congested estate?—I think there is the misapprehension, as it does not matter whether it is inside or outside a congested area.

41144. I am now assuming it is outside?—The argument would be exactly the same if it is inside.

41145. If it is inside in many cases the Congested Districts Board deal with it?—They may, of course.

41146. Take the case of an estate outside which the Estates Commissioners wish to buy?—And I suppose which is in the discretion of the Estates Commissioners ought to be considered congested. Well, I think it is impossible to frame a definition which will cover every case fairly. You will have to leave it to the discretion of the Estates Commissioners, and the only point it affects is the 10 per cent. loss. If they had discretion as to whether they should insist that I think it would be much better than a hard and fast rule saying so much bog and mountain. Taking my own Clonalis estate, they could not treat that as congested, and, yet, if they had discretion I have not much doubt that they would.

41147. At present the landlord has the power to refuse to consent to his estate being considered a congested estate?—Yes.

41148. Would you be inclined to allow the landlord to retain that power?—I do not think it matters very much. I do not know any landlord who would refuse to have his estate so considered. In my particular case there is an arrangement that the Estates Commissioners should declare it as they thought fit, but they have not done it, and why I do not know. I do not wish to bind the landlords in general to this view, but my own view would be to do away with that entirely and give the Estates Commissioners the discretion to declare an estate a congested estate if they think fit. That is only my personal view.

41149. It does seem logical if you are going to entrust the Estates Commissioners with discretionary power to declare an estate a congested estate that with the bestowal of the discretionary power there should be a limit put on the possible action of the landlord?—Of course, there was a feeling some time ago, but I think it is dying out, that in order to have an estate congested the landlord would get a smaller price for it. That feeling undoubtedly existed, and for that reason a great many landlords objected.

41150. Sir ARTHUR MACDONAGH.—Wasn't that the reason why the objectionable phrase, from a tenant's point of view, was introduced into the section?—Quite so.

41151. The feeling is as old as the Bill, and it was expressed in the House of Lords by whom the few words were introduced?—I do not know of the feeling now is as strong as it was.

41152. But the result is that owing to the landlords not selling lower only four estates since the Act came into force have been treated as congested. The occurrence of these five words absolutely nullified to all intents and purposes the intention of the section?—I know that the Estates Commissioners, in my own case, made a point of insisting on the landlord consenting to the estate being treated as congested.

41153. They must have the consent, but the consent never will be given if the landlord does not get his full price?—There were some communications with the Estates Commissioners and with Mr. Wyndham—I am not sure if not also with you—as to the advantages and disadvantages, and it was pointed out that the only difference was the 10 per cent.

41154. I think we are beating about the bush. The whole thing is a snarl in that if the Estates Commissioners felt they could do as the Congested Districts Board do they would give the landlord the best price they could for the land but buy as cheap as they could. The occurrence of these five words in the section enabled the landlords to insist on as high

a price for the land as if the estate had not been congested. That is the effect of it.—Well, if that is the effect of it I think there may be some objection to it. I don't quite see that it is the effect. I think you have put the landlord's case perhaps better than I did, but I don't see how it affects that.

41155. Did I understand you to reply to Lord Dudley that you think these five words might advantageously come off?—Yes, I think so, because they blot sales so much they should come out, but I do not put that forward as the view of all the landlords, because I know many would not agree with that.

41156. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—It seems to be your general view, with your knowledge of the need of relieving congestion that the body charged with the relief of congestion should have responsibility for designating what areas should be treated as a congested district or a congested area?—Yes.

41157. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Would not that authority be in exactly the same difficulty as the framers of the Act of Parliament unless they know the lines on which they are going to treat a district as congested?—No, because they know the country, and in the Act of Parliament you have to have a cut and dry definition that must of necessity be unsuitable in a great many cases. Such a definition in an Act of Parliament will tie up the Board and hamper them.

41158. That, of course, means a tremendous responsibility?—I do not think it is such a great responsibility. They have got such a large district now, and although you are nominally largely increasing it is only nominally.

41159. CHAIRMAN.—It comes to this, that in your view, the man who knows the condition of the west of Ireland will make up his mind as to whether an estate is, owing to its condition, really congested or not, but it is very difficult for him to succeed in putting that down in black and white in the form of a definition?—Quite so. I would, at any rate, try and make the two definitions correspond. I would like to have the congested estates and the congested areas made to correspond if possible. I think, having two definitions (although the last definition is framed with the best intentions) is very unsuitable. You have, for instance, big grass farms on an otherwise congested estate, but these grass farms at once uncongest it. That is certainly not the object of the Act, and certainly no one desires that an estate with big grass farms should be so treated. A very large portion of the scheduled areas in North Mayo are not congested in the sense that the inhabitants are poor, and want State assistance, either in way of enlarging their holdings or otherwise. If it is decided to retain the system of scheduling districts I would suggest that the better unit to take would be the townland, rather than the elected division, and that in dealing with the matter other sources of income, such as fishing, possibility of remunerative employment, &c., should be taken into consideration. An official inspection should be made by a competent person, who should confidentially report to whatever authority is entrusted with the power of declaring or scheduling a district, and such authority should at all times have the right to include townlands in the schedule, and also to remove them from it.

41160. Mr. STRATHMANN.—When would be the occasion on which you suggest a townland should be unscheduled?—When the Board has done all they could to relieve it. When the work of the Board is finished, or, for instance, on the Dillon estate, I take it in the course of time, the Board will have completed their operations there. There is no object in maintaining a poor district as a scheduled congested area when you do not, or cannot, spend any more money there, or do any more good work.

41161. Would there not be pressure brought to bear on the authority to keep such a district scheduled?—I think there would, but if they are out of them the Board would not be bothered every year for a grant or something or other because they were scheduled.

41162. Would that principle of years apply to all districts?—Yes. I take it that the Board hopes, and the Legislative body, that in the course of time the congested districts, or, as any rate, some of them, will be sufficiently relieved so as not to be considered congested any longer. When you have done all you can for a district then I say that district should go out

because so long as you have places on the list, and are working in the district, you will be pressed to go on with the work.

41163. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Do you think that agricultural instruction should go on even after the congestion has been relieved. If the Congested Districts Board took over the work of the Agricultural Department you would not exclude that district from the benefits of agricultural instruction because the congestion had been relieved?—Of course you would include the district for that purpose, but I did not think of that. But I take it there will be a time when even that instruction in some districts might cease.

41164. CHAIRMAN.—Your idea is if the agricultural condition of the district were so improved there would be nothing then to prevent that district being handed over to the Agricultural Department and the County Committee to deal with as an ordinary non-congested district?—Yes, when it is sufficiently improved for the Department to so deal with it.

41165. At that stage you would exclude the district from the care of the Congested Districts Board?—Yes.

41166. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But the Agricultural Department deals with large areas. Now, suppose the Dillon estate work was finished and handed over to the Department, that is a small area in the very middle of a big county, and would not your scheme be impossible?—The area is fairly substantial.

41167. But compared with the county itself, it is a small area to bring in another Board to operate upon by way of agricultural schemes along with the rest of the surrounding county?—Yes, but you have not all the surrounding county at present because you are running it in and out in a most extraordinary way.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—Personally I would like to rectify that, and rather treat the whole county as a whole.

41168. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—On the main point of scheduling I take it that, even while a district remains on the schedule, any body dealing with congestion is not bound to be always spending some money on each district?—Yes, I think so, and that is one reason why I should like to see the scheduled district very large and pretty well scattered. When dealing with comparatively small areas you will have applicable and more pressure put on you than if you have a great number of areas to deal with.

41169. CHAIRMAN.—What is the next point you wish to deal with?—I wish to deal with the nature of the district. A totally different state of affairs exists between one truly congested district and another. A remedy that would be useful in one would be impossible in another. In the seaboard area near Roundstone, Killybegs, Lettermore, Gormans, Carrans, &c., the position is totally different to that (say) around Swinford, or even to that in North Mayo, near Rathlucan, Belderg, Inver, and Pullathorne. The sea is the real source of livelihood to the seaboard population in West and South-West Galway, and it would be hopeless to try migrating them to inland grass lands. They would not know how to use them, and their last state would be worse than the first; moreover no considerable proportion of the population would agree to go if they were required to surrender their existing holdings. Then as to remedies, I will take the maritime districts in South-West Galway. This is probably the worst district in Ireland. Everything possible should be done to increase the earning power of the population; they need instruction and handwork, and as long as the potato crop is good they do not complain much. Attempts by interchange of seed should be made to avoid failure of the crop; facilities for and instruction in spraying should be provided, and the people should be taught by local resident instructors to use their land to the best advantage. It is hopeless to expect any real improvement in this district from migration, and any industries there existing, such as the turf industry, fishing, &c., should be encouraged (e.g., second port at Corribell) and the people rendered as little dependent as possible on the potato crop. Another thing that I think might really be done, and which is being done to a slight extent, is share estates can be bought, and I think more can and will be in course of time, is to strip off the land and main roads. I am not now talking of big highways, but roads to enable the tenants to go more inland through the

June 10, 1907.
The O'Connell
Don.

June 19, 1907.
The O'Connell
Box

estate. At present they use the land along the seaboard for tillage for the reason that it is almost impossible to get such land further inland. None of it is good land. I am not suggesting that it is, but I am quite sure that if the tenants could work the land further inland they would do so. They would require facilities for carting seaweed. At present the holdings are cut up in a most extraordinary way, and there is practically no way of getting manure to the land.

41170. **Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.**—You think there is room for reclamation?—I think there is considerable room for reclamation inland. You will find in places where they have the facilities they have gone inland.

41171. Is there any limestone in those districts?—No; I do not think so.

41172. They get their manure from the sea?—Yes, and if they could bring the seaweed inland there is really more good land there than at the sea.

41173. **Chairman.**—You know more about the agricultural conditions there than I do, but is it not a fact that the shallow land lying near the sea is drier and better than the land inland?—I think there is as good land further in, but at present it is difficult to sow; if the people had more facilities for manuring and working it I am quite sure they could bring it under into cultivation. I rather suspect that the land lying along the sea would go out of cultivation and would grow poor grass.

41174. But, as I have often noticed myself, that the land along the seaboard is very much drier than the land further in?—It is, but still on the hillsides further in there is a good deal of fairly dry land. Of course, it is very light land along the sea, and they do not grow many crops on it. It is only by great manuring that they get anything out of it and the labour is enormous.

41175. **Mr. Sturgeson.**—You say the sea is the real source of livelihood for the seaboard population—do you mean it is now, or might be made that, and do you include the seaweed manure?—Of course, I am including that. If you take away the seaweed I do not know what would happen there.

41176. **Chairman.**—What is there in addition to the seaweed?—There is the turf, which might also be called a sea industry, as it is shipped by sea.

41177. There is no fishing?—No; there is no fishing just along there, but there is the burning of kelp.

41178. **Mr. Sturgeson.**—Is there no fishing there?—No; the fishing is more in North Mayo, and withers pretending to be an expert in the value of land, I should say that the land in North Mayo would be much better utilized down here. If you had some of the North Mayo land in South and West Conamara it would be used to greater advantage.

41179. **Chairman.**—Do you know that district well?—I cannot say I do.

41180. There does not appear to be much opportunity for making harbours there?—There are places where piers could be built.

41181. There does not seem to be any natural harbours?—No.

41182. The piers would not be very much use if you could not have a harbour big enough to accommodate the fishing boats?—No, except they were made at a great expenditure.

41183. If that is so how are you going to develop the fishing there?—There are places in Galway more sheltered.

41184. Do you know Spiddal and Castellot?—Yes; at Castellot there is an inlet which might give sufficient shelter, I think.

41185. The fishing in the inlet would not be much good. They would have to go out?—Yes, they would have to go out and would require larger boats, but I am not an expert in fishing. As to the maritime districts in North Mayo—Ballinacross, Belderriver, &c., to Belmullet—in these districts, although there may be a number of very poor people, still, taken as a whole, the population is comparatively comfortable. Their houses are fairly good, and there is no evidence of the extreme poverty that exists in South-West Galway. There is, moreover, particularly round or near Killybeggie and Killybeg, a quantity of grass land which could, I believe, be obtained at a fair price without compulsion for the enlargement of holdings. The population is, however, accustomed to

obtain its living largely from fishing, and although it might be desirable to somewhat increase the holding, I do not think it would be at all wise so to increase them as to render agriculture their main source of income. I may say that what is really wanted in this district is new seed, and if the people could sell their seed and send to another district for a change it would be an enormous advantage.

41186. Have you noticed any improvement effected by new seed?—Oh, yes; it has been a decided advantage.

41187. Take the years when there has been a partial failure in seed, but where the seed was good, have you noticed any improvement a few years afterwards?—Yes. The potatoes seemed fairly good, but I am talking of what happens on my own property, where the distribution of seed has been free by the landlord.

41188. You have given the tenants seed?—Yes, this year I have given them seed.

41189. In previous years your father gave them seed?—Yes. He had been doing that, and I noticed that our seed always gave very much better results on the whole generally for some years after a failure, whether that was due to the fact that in the year of the failure new seed was given or when it was, it was hard to say, but a few years afterwards there was generally a great improvement. There may be two or three reasons, and I would not like to put it down to the one thing. If there is a good year then very little spraying is done next year, and if there is a series of good years spraying goes out of fashion. When there is a bad season they spray the following season.

41190. **Mr. Sturgeson.**—Is it necessary to change the seed every year?—I should advocate every year on a small scale rather than on a big scale in one year. But it is difficult for the tenants to do that. If there was some system of getting the seed changed I think it would be an enormous advantage.

41191. **Chairman.**—Do you think this sort of work could be done by Parish Committees?—I think a good deal could be done by them.

41192. Don't you think Parish Committees would be a most powerful agency for doing this sort of work?—Parish Committees do an enormous amount of good work in some districts, but in other districts the Committee is more or less a failure. It all depends on the person working the Parish Committee. If you have an energetic person working it, as you have in a great many districts, where some of them take an enormous amount of trouble over it, it will be a success. On the other hand, if you have one or two individuals who are more interested in their own affairs than in the work of the Committee a success, it won't be a success.

41193. **Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.**—What is your general observation on the work of Parish Committees?—I think as a rule they are a success, and almost invariably that is due to the parish priest.

41194. As regards the change of seed which you supplied, where did you find the seed?—From two or three places in the North-East of Ireland.

41195. Would you consider a change of seed from one part of an estate to another part of a different class of land an advantage?—It would; but this year I was wondering whether I ought to do that. I intended to give the tenants my own seed, but on account of the failure of last year I thought it safer to get seed from the North, because I would not like to give them my own seed, which might fail. I sold it in Dublin, and got new seed from the North.

41196. Do you consider that after the failure of last year the potatoes in the hands of small tenants were not suited for seeding the land?—They were not suited for seeding their wet holdings, but they might do very well in dry land. Of course, the quantity of seed I gave out was not sufficient to plant the potato crop on the whole estate, but still it was an assistance.

41197. **Sir Francis Mowatt.**—By new seed you do not mean a new sort of potatoes, but seed that did not come from the same ground?—Yes. I got two kinds of potatoes, but I found great difficulty in getting the tenants to take any other than Champagnes. But a great many people say Champagnes are a failure.

41198. **Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.**—I am sorry to say there are poor parts of the congested districts where the potatoes have almost failed, and there is no one to supply them with any seed in place of the very wretched immature potatoes that remain.

41199. CHAIRMAN.—I have heard it suggested that it is very often the fault of the tenants that they have bad potatoes, because instead of picking the best potatoes for seed they cut them, and keep the worst potatoes for seed?—There is a great deal of difference of opinion as to what is the best potato for seed. Some people take the big potatoes, others the small potatoes, and others the medium ones. I think they should not sit there, but put them down while and sprout them. Sprouting should be encouraged. I have tried it as an experiment myself, and I know it has an enormous effect on the yield and the date of the yield. You can put the potatoes down later, and they come up much quicker.

41200. What do you mean by sprouting?—Putting the potatoes in boxes and allowing the sprouts to grow out before they are put into the ground.

41201. Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.—Do you pack them in clay?—No. They are dry, and we pile the boxes against the wall in an empty room and leave them there. Then they sprout. They can be planted a good deal later and will come up much earlier than if planted in the ordinary way.

41202. When in the boxes do the potatoes sprout in exactly the same way as if planted in the soil?—Yes, and you can make them sprout quickly or slowly.

41203. You are starting them to grow under more favoured conditions than if in the soil?—Yes. What caused us to try this was, my father and I had an interview with Professor Campbell, and he suggested that we should try this. We did so, and as it was very successful, we continued it.

41204. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That will have another advantage, that you can get rid of the potatoes that do not show signs of strength?—Yes; reject them altogether, which is a most important thing. But one of the chief advantages of this system is that in the boxes only one shoot will come. It is only the strongest shoot that will appear, and when planted you then have the whole strength of the potato centred in it. The country people usually cut the potatoes in two or three parts to make seed out of them and the result is that they reduce the strength of the potatoes. In sprouting the best potatoes are not the very large but the medium sized ones, but the country people like the potatoes for seed to be as large as possible.

41205. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Are you very much affected by the late frost?—Not materially this year. There was a little damage done to some early potatoes, but not affects us more.

41206. Mr. KILGARR.—Does the potato blight affect the sprouted potatoes?—It does, but it is less affected than the others on account of their being more advanced when put into the ground. We have tried the sprouting for two or three years, and this year I am having two or three special plots carefully laid out under conditions as similar as possible so as to observe the actual difference in the return. There is no doubt that the return by sprouting is larger, but I want also to see whether it is useful for early and late planting. If it is good for late planting, that would suit the country people, who are late in planting.

41207. Mr. BURNHAM.—The season is short, and they must make the most of it?—Yes, and I think this might help them in that way, but it is difficult.

41208. Have you made any experiments with cut potatoes?—No.

41209. CHAIRMAN.—You have been dealing with North Mayo?—Yes; and I may say that in that district there is a very large quantity of grass land, and from a conversation I had with a land agent I do not think there would be much difficulty in getting a good deal of that land for the purpose of increasing the holdings. There is not an enormous number of holdings that would require increasing, but there are some. But I don't vary much whether it would be desirable, where there is a fishing village, to turn that village into a purely agricultural one. If it is desirable to increase their holdings I would increase them to such an extent as to make them live more comfortably as fishermen.

41210. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Those people to whom you refer would not be engaged in fishing, all the year round?—No.

41211. You do not contemplate their following the fish from boat to boat, and while not engaged in

fishing you would like to see them and their families with as much land as would occupy them?—Yes.

41212. To provide vegetable and milk for the family?—I am afraid in the West of Ireland they do not do much in the way of growing vegetables, except cabbage.

41213. Are you aware that the Congested Districts Board bought several small estates in that district?—Yes, and I should fancy if they wanted they could buy more.

41214. Do you consider these estates should be kept in hands until well improved before the sale takes place to the tenants?—I think so, within reason. My point is that I would not try to make agriculture exclude fishing. You have got an industry there which is working very well, and while their spare time could be occupied with agriculture I would not make them agriculturalists pure and simple.

41215. You would not desire to draw anyone from fishing to agriculture?—No.

41216. There is too little land?—Yes; besides I do not know if the land would be a better means of livelihood than fishing.

41217. But isn't there a population in the district pretty far removed from the fishing?—Yes; but it is not a very thickly populated district at all.

41218. But for that population outside the fishing such holdings would enable them to live by the land?—Yes, but I do not think it would be altogether desirable to kill them going away for labour. That brings a good deal of money into the country.

41219. You do not think that is a bad thing so long as there is fair permanence in the labour to which they resort that they should now and then go away for labour?—Yes; even the gentry have to send some of their sons away. We cannot always live at home there, and although I would increase the holdings I would not say there must be an increase because some of the people have to go away for labour.

41220. Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.—You mentioned that large tracts of grass land could be obtained. Are you aware of the fact that the Estates Commissioners addressed a very considerable number of holders of grass lands in the locality, and asked them to allow a preliminary inspection of these unimproved lands to be made with a view to purchase, and that out of the thirteen owners applied to not one consented to an inspection being made or consented to entertain any proposal for the purchase of their land?—I can quite understand that, and I would say it is in no way inconsistent with my view, because of the trouble of selling to the Estates Commissioners, of which I have experience. Landlords rightly or wrongly are afraid of an inspection, because if there is an inspection, and you do not agree with the terms of the Commissioners a great deal of trouble may result.

41221. Do you expect that Government funds will be advanced without inspection?—Oh, no; but I say at present landlords think the Estates Commissioners are trying to get the land below value, and they rightly or wrongly greatly distrust the Estates Commissioners. They feel it is better to sit quiet for the present. I know a great many agents, and I am quite sure that they would be perfectly satisfied if they got a reasonable price for the lands.

41222. How is a reasonable price to be ascertained unless the purchaser is allowed to ascertain what price he will give?—Quite so, but as I said, what they feel is that when a circular of this kind is sent out—that is what it was—it is felt that they don't know what trouble the Commissioners are going to make down here.

41223. CHAIRMAN.—What circular is this that you are referring to?—The circular that was sent—I call it a circular—it was a communication sent to a very large number of owners not only in our district, but in other districts, asking for permission to inspect. I might add, to my knowledge, a certain number of owners have actually applied to the Commissioners for an inspection, and although the Commissioners sent out circulars asking for leave to inspect where they had not been asked, yet where they have been asked, they are not even sending an inspector down.

41224. Sir ANTHONY MACDONALD.—I will make a note of that and ascertain how far the information which has reached you is accurate, but I think we may take it as certain that in the tracts, especially in Killybegs tract, which you mention, a large number of owners have been applied to for permission to inspect their estates with a view to

June 15, 1907

The O'Connell
Box.

June 10, 1899.
The O'Case
Dns.

purchase, and that permission to inspect has not been allowed?—Quite so.

41235. Now, I ask you, how are the Estates Commissioners to get into close touch with owners of inspection is not allowed?—I think that just at the present moment the owners feel, and for a little time past have felt, "We had better sit quiet and do nothing, because if we allow inspection and we don't agree as to terms, we will be in difficulties."

41236. CHAIRMAN.—In other words, they don't wish to sell?—Some of them are perfectly willing to sell, but they don't wish to run the risk of failure, and then all the trouble that follows on that.

41237. If, according to your own words, they wish to sit quiet and not allow inspection, how do they want to sell?—They will sell later on if things quiet down.

41238. But at present they don't wish to sell?—They are quite willing to sell at the can get what they consider a fair price; but they say they know the Estates Commissioners won't give them a fair price, and they are not going to run the risk of having all the trouble that ensues when there is a failure.

41239. You mean to say that they, having made up their minds that the Estates Commissioners' price will not be a fair price, are not willing at this moment to enter into communication with the Estates Commissioners for sale?—To some extent, though I think with a little discretion that could be managed.

41240. Sir ARTHUR MACDONAGH.—Is not that feeling which you say exists in regard to the properties mentioned largely entertained in Roscommon and Galway and elsewhere as regard to grass lands?—Quite so.

41241. Would you not say that that feeling, and the failure of the landlords to co-operate with the Government in the sale and distribution of these grass lands is creating a very bad effect in the country?—You could put it perhaps the other way.

41242. In substance that is the result?—No, because what I say is that the Government say—"We want this thing." They send down a man. I have had some correspondence sent to me. It is not a case I know very much about; but I have had official copies of correspondence sent to me, which will show the risk the landlords run in this. I don't say it is the fault of the Commissioners, but if they were in a position to deal more reasonably with the landlords in the matter, landlords would come in, and what the landlords naturally say is—That is not our failure; it is the failure of the Commissioners or of the Government. If we offer this land and it is rejected we know the consequences. If we offer it and it is accepted there will be enormous delay in getting paid. There will be all kinds of trouble over it and so on. If the Government were in a position to say—"We will pay you cash down" it would be a very different story of course, but at present it may take three years. I have got here the correspondence in the Burton Parnoo estate, where the landlord offered the townland. They agreed provisionally to take it; they agreed to inspect it; there was not any difficulty about price. After something over two years they came to the conclusion that it was unsuitable, and the man practically lost the use of the land in the interval.

41243. I shall be able to place a very different complexion on that matter; but may I beg you to the point that I want to bring out; it is this—that it was the original proposal and intention of the Land Purchase Act that these grazing lands should be acquired on a large scale for the purpose of the relief of congestion and the enlargement of uneconomic holdings. The Government is anxious to push that policy and anxious to acquire these lands on a large scale. The Estates Commissioners apply for permission to inspect, in order that they may offer a reasonable price for the purchase of these lands; the landlord refuses to allow an inspection. Consequently they cannot get into touch with them. The result is a strong feeling is created throughout the country, with the result which we are aware of. Is not the responsibility of that largely on the shoulders of the landlords, and is not the case made out for compulsory purchase if that policy is persisted in?—If your premises could be accepted—possibly; but what the landlords would say is—they would put it in this way—the policy was to get these grass lands; the Land Commission have adopted a policy, rightly or

wrongly, of not giving a proper price, and of large delay, and it is on their shoulders that the blame for the trouble should lie. If we knew they would deal fairly with us—if we knew when they agreed to sell that we would be paid in the reasonable time that the Act seemed to contemplate, it would be different. The Act, in fact, laid blame on a landlord who could not complete within a year. So far from completing within a year, the other side don't complete within two or three years. At present there is something like £35,000,000 worth of property before us which won't be completed for a great many years, and we say—"With all these difficulties in our way you cannot expect us to run the enormous risk of fixing too low a price or being delayed an enormously long time before we get paid."

41234. We have been talking to you as the representative of the Landlords' Convention—what is your reason for saying you are offered too low a price. Can you produce instances in which negotiations have fallen through because the Estates Commissioners have offered too low a price. If you are not prepared with instances today, perhaps you may be able to give them to-morrow?—I will try to get you some instances.

41235. Because I want to bring to the test the grounds and reasons the landlords have for refusing even the power of inspection to the Commissioners. I want to put it prominently forward that the Estates Commissioners are anxious to push this policy of the purchase of these grass lands, and they are prevented from carrying out that policy by the resistance of the landlords and the landlords' refusal to allow inspection to be made with that object?—There is a very great difficulty in putting before you the instances, because, as you yourself must know, if I gave you the cases where the landlords consider the price too low there would be trouble on these properties.

41236. That is possible—I will make every allowance for that; but you could give the Commission such information as to reasonable time to see whether the evil or the difficulty can be removed?—I think myself if you could remove the delay, you would have removed a very large portion of the difficulty.

41237. CHAIRMAN.—Perhaps you could give us some information on the lines required, privately, and not for publication.

41238. Sir ARTHUR MACDONAGH.—Does the same objection which the landlords seem to have dealing with the Estates Commissioners obtain as regards dealing with the Congested Districts Board?—I don't know. I think Mr. Fitzgibbon from Castlebar expressed the same view, only from the opposite side. It seems in our district landlords think the Congested Districts Board the best, and in another they will think the Estates Commissioners, and vice versa.

41239. Don't you see it is desirable in the interests of the peace and well-being of the country that we should come to close grips on this question of the purchase of the grass lands?—I quite see that.

41240. If you won't come to it by an amicable arrangement, and you see it is necessary to acquire the grass lands, then the case for compulsion is made out?—I don't know I would go as far as admitting that, but still it goes a long way.

41241. The grass lands have to be bought or acquired?—My case is that there are grass lands available. I have grass lands which I have offered to the Commissioners at their own price, as you know.

41242. I know; but I don't like to get into personal matters. But I am aware of the facts, which from the Commissioners' point of view would be a reason why they did not close with you upon that occasion. I don't want to enter into that, but I want to come to the broad question of the acquisition on a large scale of these grass lands which are desirable in the interests of the relief of congestion and the enlargements of uneconomic holdings, as well as the general pacification of the country?—Of course, the two things are really connected.

41243. One is the consequence of the other?—To some extent that is so.

41244. If you won't come to terms with the Estates Commissioners as you prepared to allow the Congested Districts Board to inspect and make offers?—I think a good many of the landlords, rightly or wrongly, would be under the impression that difficulties are put in the way of the Congested Districts Board.

41245. We must do it in one way or the other. If you don't allow the Estates Commissioners to approach you, we want to have the Congested Districts Board to approach you. If you will not have anything to say to either we want to compel you to sell—the alternative is compulsory—I want to make that perfectly clear!—If I could tell a certain number of landlords who have spoken to me that they would be fairly dealt with, and that they would be treated with at once and paid without delay, I have not much doubt that I could get a very considerable amount of grass land offered to you straight off.

41246. How many thousand acres?—It is hard to tell you straight off. I could get you many thousand acres in a week, I should say.

41247. Forty thousand acres?—I dare say, but not in a week, but in a period of time; it would take some population.

41248. Can you get me a list of those 40,000 acres whose owners would be prepared to sell on fair terms their grass lands in Roscommon and Mayo?—I could not give you a list without their consent.

41249. Of course not, but we want to know clearly the landlords who would sell?—I dare say I could.

41250. These are the landlords who are prepared to sell?—I could not give you that list for publication.

41251. Certainly not, but merely for private information, that we might know?—Of course, you asked us here 40,000 acres; it is a rough shot, I may say. I tried myself to see how much one thought one could put together as the result of a conversation I had with you the other day. I came to the conclusion that something like that figure could be got in Roscommon and Mayo.

41252. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Let me ask you this, in illustration of what you have been saying. There is no necessity for compulsion if the landlords could be got to believe they would be likely to be treated fairly; that really means a question of price?—Of price and speed. I may say I perhaps differ from some of them in the view that I take—that speed is almost as important as price. You must remember that a very large number of landlords are not unencumbered, and delay is almost fatal to them—I mean having the purchase money so long kept back.

41253. What they really fear is that the price offered will not be such as they could accept, and that even if they could accept it the delay which experience has shown to exist would make it a bargain that they cannot face?—Yes, and, of course, there is this also; it is not only delay in carrying through but delay in getting a contract, because what the Estates Commissioners generally do—and I know more about dealing with the Estates Commissioners than with the Congested Districts Board—is to provisionally agree. They don't bind themselves, and the thing goes on until the very last moment with merely a provisional agreement.

41254. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—An agreement as to the definition of an estate?—Yes, and a kind of understanding as to price, and on that I may take my own case. They had a provisional agreement that they were to buy some 400 acres of grass land; the grass land was land they inspected and approved of; there it is (map produced), cut up and settled to sale, and there was no binding agreement.

41255. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—On either side?—No, but we would have liked a binding agreement. We had put in the originating application; there was a letter that the price for this grass land was subject to the sale going through. The sale went through. Here is the plan of the grass land; they came and divided the grass land up; it is all plotted out into holdings, and so on. They said—"We are very sorry, we must exclude that" (indicates); "we will take all this." This is where I own some more land here (indicates); I have a demesne here. "We value that at so much; we deduct this from the gross purchase price, and we will give you back this patch of land because it won't suit us."

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—That is—

CHAIRMAN.—Are we to go into this question?

41257. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—It is anticipating, but the O'Connor Don has mentioned it, and as he mentioned it rather in disparagement—I—No; I am not talking of any personal matters referring to the Commissioners.

41258. I quite understand that; but it is fair to

say on behalf of the Commissioners the reason why they gave back that farm was that it was a wet swamp which nobody would buy from the Commissioners at any price!—With regard to that, I am perfectly willing that when the Commission is down at Roscommon—and I will afford them facilities for doing so—to take them over the property and the so-called swamp. I should like them also to see their own inspector's report on it. I have seen the report. The report is this—"The land is very suitable for the enlargement of holdings." There is not a word about a wet swamp in the report. Mr. FENNER did say to me that he thought somebody had reported that it was a wet swamp, and he looked at the file as my possession, but instead of that it was reported the other way.

41259. All I want to say is the Commissioners when they buy property must have regard to the immediate circumstances, and if they cannot resell it, they are not allowed to accept it. In a completed estate they must regard the possibility of reselling themselves for the money they pay out. When they find they cannot resell any particular property they are precluded from buying it!—Quite so; and that is what I say is one of the difficulties in dealing with them. I am only putting this as an example of the difficulties in dealing with this matter. If the State wants to get grass lands the State must run the risk. No landlord will like to offer grass land on the terms that "We will take this and give back that." I do not want to sell myself.

41260. CHAIRMAN.—What risk must the State take?—The risk of not being able to resell. The real reason for their giving back this lot was that they could not get a tenant for it. There was no other reason at all. This is not land they agreed to buy without an inspection. They had two inspections before they made this offer for this place with the wet swamp or whatever you like to call it. I have got the figures of the two inspections; they differ by about £20.

41261. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—They could not get a tenant to take it!—Yes, because they had a large quantity of better land elsewhere, and I suggested to them that I might get them a tenant, but I have not had an answer to that. I might also point out this—having gone into this matter, it would be well to go right through it—portion of this grass land which has been taken, and which is some of the best portion according to the valuation, has been in fact divided by them between the two local politicians, both men in a large way of business. I don't wish to say a word against either of these two people, because they are both very industrious, well-to-do, hard-working men, men who have laid to the value of £50 a year each, I believe.

41262. MRS. Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you say the best land available for division was divided between two local politicians?—I don't say the best land available for division but some of the best land according to the inspector's report.

41263. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—What extent of acreage?—Here is the piece (indicates on plan). Nos. 11 and 12 to one and 13 and 14 to the other. There are about 300 acres in the whole square.

41264. MRS. Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Would you be of opinion in reference to the 40,000 acres which you consider may be offered, that in the present state of the country, and in view of the needs of the population, it would be very desirable if the Congested Districts Board had expeditiously made available for it as much of that land as it requires for the enlargement of small holdings?—I think it would. I lay emphasis on the word "and," and "the present state of the country," because I think that that is what requires this to be done rather more quickly than would be desirable for the needs of the population. I think that for the needs of the population great speed is undesirable.

41265. I quite understand that the pace cannot be a very fast one, but you allow both conditions; and the needs of the population are there, and the state of the country demands pretty prompt attention to those needs?—Yes, but I think if this agitation was not going on, for the needs of the country it could be much better done rather more slowly than will probably be necessary to satisfy the demand.

41266. I appreciate your point that migration and the enlargement of holdings to be done in the best

June 16, 1907.

The O'Connor Don.

June 16, 1907. way require time?—Yes; you are bound to make mistakes if you rush at it, as it probably will be done, and perhaps necessarily must be done, there will be huge mistakes made.

41267. But take it that the body dealing with congestion demands for itself a reasonable amount of time. Assuming that, all the same, would not it be necessary before it starts operations that it should be in possession of a large quantity of grass land, so that it can survey what is sufficient to relieve congestion pretty much as a whole in a district, though not in detail?—I think you will find it very hard to do that. Do you mean that in your opinion it would be necessary there should be actually sold large tracts of grass land, or does it mean your view that there should be power to purchase when required large tracts?

41268. I mean both; I mean there should be power to purchase, and that for economically dealing with the problem, the body dealing with the problem should have the grass lands in readiness before it acquires the highly congested estates?—Perhaps without directly answering your question, I may express my own view that the best way is to get grass lands, and use them in the very profitable way that Mr. Doonan has shown they can be used, and then fill them up gradually as you get estates.

41269. The facts being such don't you consider that it is very regrettable that the Congested Districts Board at the present moment is absolutely barred from negotiating for the land which it requires for the relief of congestion in the country?—Certainly.

41270. Are you aware that for want of sufficient funds to promote migration and enlargement of holdings pending the sanction of this Commission at this very critical time the Congested Districts Board is very much hampered in negotiations for estates?—I understood that for some reason or another there was something preventing the Congested Districts Board from negotiating, and that they were not in fact negotiating for lands.

41271. Have you heard that they agreed to a self-denying ordinance, limiting the purchases within a certain figure, and that they feel it extremely difficult to meet the reasonable demands of the congested population, and keep to that understanding?—I had heard something of the kind, but at rather shows by the figure being too small—as I believe it is—that it is the money and not that land that is not there.

41272. I am dealing with the money for the moment; do you not think at this critical time, it is a great pity that from the Treasury or the Government there should be any obstacle interposed to prevent the Congested Districts Board from exercising such powers as it has to purchase land for the relief of congestion?—Most undoubtedly.

41273. Do you think adequate funds should be provided to enable it to discharge that function?—Certainly, and I think that if adequate funds were provided, that quick purchase, which the Congested Districts Board have the reputation of carrying through—that is one reason I know a lot of landlords prefer the Congested Districts Board—I think you would have much more sales of grass lands.

41274. Make this case: suppose in dealing with this problem the Congested Districts Board is not able to acquire voluntarily all the land it needs, don't you think there is a case for compulsion?—It all depends on the word "needs"; I say you can acquire all you need acquire, all you like, at a fair price.

41275. Suppose a body is constituted like the Congested Districts Board to acquire land for the enlargement of holdings and the migration of small tenants, and that body naturally decides that voluntarily it is unable to acquire a sufficient quantity of land for the purpose for which it is instituted, do you not think that there is a case for compulsion?—No.

41276. Why not?—Because that body may wrongly decide it is not able to acquire, and may wrongly decide on the quantity that is wanted.

41277. Who would set it right?—I think whatever body is carrying through the matter must see what the Congested Districts Board desires; but what are the facts; what is the land can be acquired at the price, and the second is the land wanted. I think if you find that the Congested Districts Board—I don't say for a moment that the Congested Districts Board are doing this—but if you find the Congested Districts Board saying they want a large quantity of land,

but yet unable to divide the land they had in hand, I should say then there would be no case at all for compulsion.

41278. Take it the other way: suppose the body charged with the problem of solving the difficulty of congestion makes reasonable progress with its work, and gives general satisfaction?—I think it has.

41279. And that with their money every inducement to move owners to voluntary agreement as regards purchase, now and then they would be confronted with an unreasonable man who would hold out and insist on two prices, rather than part with some little bit of land which was speckled serviceable for the relief of congestion, would not you consider that the body ought to have compulsory powers in such a case?—Of course, a special bit of land as a very different thing from dealing with the whole country; but even so regards that, if there is plenty of other land available without that, why not do it elsewhere, if you can get it. I say you can get it elsewhere, but what I object to very much on behalf of the landlords would be that you could pick out special bits. I may say I have felt that myself—the Estates Commissioners saying to me, "We are going to have that, but this piece we are going to leave you, and we are not going to give you any fair compensation for severance or anything of that kind." I think that would be grossly unfair to the landlord.

41280. CHAIRMAN.—Would not your point be met if in the case of compulsion the purchasing authority was obliged to buy the whole of the estate. I can quite understand your objection to a purchasing authority coming down and compulsorily acquiring the pieces of your property and leaving you the worst bits?—That is what they have done with me, so perhaps I feel it a little more.

41281. If that danger was removed, and if it was a question of selling not at all or in lots?—I am opposed to compulsion, but I say if you are going to take it you should take it all. When I say in fact I mean exclusive of demesne.

41282. Obviously; that is what I mean by in fact?—Take a comparatively small owner. Take the case Dr. O'Donnell put to me, where a man might have a bit of land and the Congested Districts Board might say, "We would very much like that bit of nice suitable land, so we will take it." There might be another owner here with plenty more that would do, and I say there is no case for compulsion made out merely because that man says, "I don't want to sell." You must make out before you can establish a case for compulsion that owners as a whole won't sell what is reasonably necessary and not that there are one or two people who have little bits here and there who won't sell.

41283. Is not what you have just said an argument in favour of some sort of appeal rather than an argument against the application of the principle of compulsion?—No. Dr. O'Donnell put to me the case. "Suppose we find an owner who won't sell a particular bit that we think very suitable to acquire is not then a case for compulsion established in regard to him?" I say no, because to establish a case for compulsion you must establish first the necessity for getting this large quantity of grass land; and second the fact that taken as a whole you cannot get it. If individual owners won't give small pieces here and there that won't justify you in applying compulsion generally. Of course the real object of the demand for compulsion is to get the land cheaper.

Sir ARTHUR MACDONAGH.—Rather to get it at all when the owner says that he won't sell.

41284. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Do you go as far as this: assuming that a certain amount of land is essential for the enlargement of small holdings, and assuming that it is found impossible to acquire that land at a fair price, broadly, do you then, those two premises being granted, admit that compulsion is justifiable; you have the necessity for the land and the willingness to acquire it at a fair price; if the land is necessary and it is found impossible to acquire it at a fair price, then under those extreme conditions are you prepared to say that compulsion becomes necessary?—I should have thought that the premises you put to me involve the answer "Yes," because the word "necessary" implies the whole case.

41285. Exactly?—If there is a necessity for compulsion it must be necessary. That is what it amounts

to, but what I say is that there is no necessity as you can acquire at a fair price such a very large quantity.

41255. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Suppose you were a member of the Congested Districts Board charged with the work of relieving congestion, and you were confronted with the fact that in Roscommon the farmers do not display great willingness to sell, would you consider that there was a case for compulsion?—Not necessarily.

41256. What would your remedy be?—To see what the true value of the land was, and whether I could afford to give it, and if I could afford to give it I would try to get it from the landlord.

41257. Suppose they don't sell?—That is supposing a state of circumstances that, in my opinion, does not exist.

41258. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is your objection to compulsion a matter of price or of principle?—It is a matter of principle in this sense. I object to compulsion when there is no case to justify it. I don't know what the landlords as a whole may say—I personally would admit it if there were a great public need; just the same as in the case of railways, it is far enough then to take land for the public need.

41259. You would say that compulsion would only come in where the voluntary system breaks down?—Not necessarily when it breaks down, because it may break down without anything to justify compulsion. For instance, the Estates Commissioners, under the present Act, may not be permitted to give the value of the land.

41260. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Why?—Because they are only permitted to give such price as they can reasonably secure when they cut it up into small holdings. Assume, for the sake of argument, that on this property the land is worth £20 an acre as part of a grass farm, if you cut it up it may be only worth £10 an acre, yet in that case £10 would be a fair price.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—But it is obviously an unjustifiable assumption to say that the land would be reduced from £20 to £10 an acre. We have had a great deal of evidence as to the value of grass farms and tillage farms, and also a great deal of evidence as to the insecurity of grazing rents. The question is really as regards dealing in the market whether or not the Estates Commissioners can get 25 per cent. interest on the sums which they pay out from the date of the agreement. It comes to that.

41261. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You say that when there is no more land that you can buy by the voluntary system and that the voluntary system has broken down you then see the necessity for compulsion?—I don't admit for a moment that there is no more that you can buy.

41262. I thought you said that when such a thing did occur there would be a case for compulsion. Assume for a moment that the voluntary system has broken down and that the land is required for the purpose of migration, would not you then admit the necessity for compulsion?—I think I admitted that to Sir Francis Mowatt, that if there was a necessity for compulsion there would be a necessity. That state of affairs not only does not exist, but I believe never will exist.

41263. I can understand an objection to an inspection by the Estates Commissioners that would slavey the price in case of difference. But have you ever known a case in which the landlord has agreed to inspection, and that they have not been able to agree to a price fixed by the Estates Commissioners?—I know of some cases where there has been inspection and the thing has failed.

41264. Have you ever known a case in which they have come to terms?—Yes.

41265. Several?—My own.

41266. The case in which they have not agreed is the exception?—I think it is, because I think the only people who have allowed inspection—I may be wrong about this—were the people who were very anxious to sell at any price.

41267. Quite apart from the question of grass lands, do you think that it is quite right to say that the present situation in the West of Ireland is due to the landlords refusing inspection?—No.

41268. It has been suggested that it is so?—With regard to Sir Anthony's point as to grass land and tillage, I propose to deal with that later on.

41269. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—With regard to the Burton Perse case, which is cognate to what has

been said, I want to point out that the facts are these. In one case, in the Burton Perse matter, the estate was taken over within three months.—

CHAIRMAN.—The Burton Perse case was only raised in a reference, but the figures were not gone into.

41270. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—All I wish to say is, that if he does go into figures there is an adequate explanation. The only other case is that regarding the two publicans, which has been quoted. The explanation is that all the other tenants on the estate refused to take the particular lands, and that the Estates Commissioners had to finish up the matter and gave that land to these two men—I quite admit that explanation. I was going to deal with it more fully. What I was going to say was: here is a large quantity of specially selected grass land. I quote this as an instance of where the landlord submits to inspection. He has part of the land thrown back on his hands, and the plans taken. I say if there is such a great demand for the enlargement of holdings why give it to these two men at all? There were plenty of other people on other estates whom you could have transplanted to this large field that was divided between the two publicans, two very deserving men; I don't want to say a word against them, but they were not special objects of sympathy from the State.

41271. The answer is that the Estates Commissioners are not agents for migration?—I thought they were. I thought they had two or three estates on hands on which they wanted to buy grass lands. In fact I thought you were sitting to consider whether they should have compulsory powers for getting grass lands.

41272. They cannot bring in outsiders. It is a part of their business?—They are, in fact, doing so to my knowledge from other estates, and they could have brought them to these grass lands. What is this Commission sitting for but to determine whether they should get compulsory powers to buy grass lands and divide them among tenants?

41273. The Congested Districts Board. You are now talking about the Estates Commissioners. We are not dealing with the Estates Commissioners at all?—I thought there was a question here as to whether even the Congested Districts Board would not be done away with. If so, would not the Estates Commissioners have power to get grass lands compulsorily, assuming you reject that way?

41274. That is a different matter. That is for the Chairman?—I should have thought that the point was whether compulsory powers should be given or not. What I say is: here is grass land available, grass land that they have themselves selected and that they value at about the highest on the whole farms, and they have a number of tenants from all parts of the country whom they cannot provide with economic holdings. Here is a field in which they could have put down at least one or two holdings.

41275. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Does not that fully illustrate the difficulty of dealing with the thing piecemeal. If any authority, the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners, had not two farms, but had a great area of land instead it might easily have got men to occupy these holdings without having recourse to the publicans as occupants, but it is not so easy when you have only two farms to dispose of?—As a matter of fact the Estates Commissioners had at some distance from here a very large tract of country, and their action is described by what one countryman said to me. I asked where was Mr. So-and-so. He said, "Out there trying to coax tenants to go." He spent many days trying to coax some of my tenants to go to it; so they really had plenty to deal with. They had a large number of estates on hands which they could have transplanted the tenants to.

41276. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You admit that under certain conditions compulsion might be necessary, but your point is that the necessity has not arisen because you say that it could be arranged voluntarily with the landlords to get all the land that is necessary?—Is that your position?—Yes, and because I say they have got as much as they can really deal with at present properly.

41277. That is for them to judge?—I don't agree with that.

41278. You say that plenty of land could be got; therefore the necessity does not arise. It is all after-

June 10, 1907.

The O'Donnell
Doc. 116

June 16, 1907.
The O'Casey
Don.

That a question of conditions. What are the conditions? Is your position that the landlords are perfectly ready to give up these grass lands provided that they get their own price?—Yes, but I won't say every landlord. I only say the landlords as a whole.

41311. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I am not sure that the O'Casey Don understands the reply which he has given: the landlords are prepared to sell if they get their own price; not otherwise—I did not say not otherwise. I said at a fair price.

41312. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Who is to fix the fair price?—I will deal with price later on.

41313. This is at the outset of the whole question?—I am quite willing to go into it now if you wish.

41314. CHAIRMAN.—This question does touch what we originally started from. We have had a very long discussion on a great many subjects, but when we started from was a paragraph in your memorandum:—"There is moreover, particularly round or near Killycannon and Killa, a quantity of grass land which could I believe be obtained at a fair price without compensation, for the enlargement of holdings." That is where we started from, and Mr. Sutherland's question as to what you would call a fair price is rather opportune?—Yes. I would rather deal with all together later on, but I am quite willing to go into the question now.

41315. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The question is that the machinery called the Estates Commissioners was created for the express purpose of dealing with these matters?—Here you have a vendor and a purchaser.

41316. The vendor is an interested party, and the purchaser is a totally disinterested party?—By no means so, and I think when Mr. Boyd was being examined Sir Anthony interpreted that he would not suggest that the Estates Commissioners were the proper parties in the case of compensation to fix the price as they would be the purchasers.

Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Not ready to fix the price. There should be a court of reference for disputed cases.

41317. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—I am quite willing to accept that statement of the case?—You have vendor and purchaser at present, and they cannot agree. That is what is said.

41318. I really have a difficulty in accepting the identity of position in this case with that of a purchaser and vendor, because you cannot put them on the same platform?—A vendor in the ordinary sense; a purchaser in the restricted sense that he is bound to see that there is at least sufficient security. He cannot give even what he might think the fair value if he thought there was a risk, and they take actually 15 per cent. off in practice for that risk.

41319. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Would you call him a middleman? He has to sell?—He is a purchaser, and a purchaser without a free hand, and therefore cannot give as much as an ordinary purchaser.

41320. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But without any personal pecuniary interest whatsoever?—No doubt.

41321. CHAIRMAN.—In answer to the Bishop you said that if you were on the Congested Districts Board what you would do would be to see what would be the true value of the land, and then consider if you could afford to give it?—Yes.

41322. If that be so, how would you set about seeing what the true value of the land is?—Where it is let and has been let for many years on the grazing system, you have got the true value pretty clearly fixed.

41323. Without going into details now, am I to understand that you would arrive at the true value by some process other than inspection?—I don't say that if I was on the Congested Districts Board I should not require inspection as well, because there might be frauds.

41324. You would require inspection?—If I was on the Congested Districts Board.

41325. Is it, in your opinion, possible for any purchasing body to arrive at a proper appreciation of what the true value of land is by any system however good without ultimately also inspecting?—I think even with inspection, very often it would be impossible to arrive at true value.

41326. But inspection must be a necessary part of the conclusion as to what is true value?—I see a difficulty about inspection. We have had it from time to time in the Land Courts. One inspector says one thing and one another. What I say is that

the strongest evidence of the true value, assuming you get correct figures, is what A has been paying for the past twenty years for his land, and has been making a living out of it.

41327. Do you believe that the purchasing authority can conscientiously perform its duties in that way?—I would have this inspected as well.

41328. However much they may be supplied with data as to rent, prices, and other things, could they reasonably conclude a purchase without having looked at what they are going to buy?—No.

41329. It is not reasonable to ask it?—No. I am not suggesting it.

41330. If that is so, and if inspection is necessary, how can they arrive at the true value of the land to be sold if inspection is refused?—They cannot, but they could do that. They could say, "We will, subject to inspection, give you so much for the grazing land."

41331. That is fixing the true value before they have seen it?—When land is let on the eleven months' system, you have a clear indication of its value, and you can arrive at its value assuming that there is no fraud of any kind.

41332. Surely your own method would not be satisfactory. You say they could offer a certain price subject to inspection; in other words, what does that mean? Subject to inspection showing that the thing is worth what you think it is worth?—Yes.

41333. Suppose they did that, and they went down and found on inspection that it was not worth what they had thought it was worth, and they did not give you the price previously agreed on, all the objections you would have to inspection would apply equally, and the tenants would know that on inspection the price was not considered worth the amount agreed on beforehand?—Yes, but I think you would find that these cases would not be so very many; but I may say I do think that they are quite right in having inspection at the very start, and that it is the only way of getting at it, but what is preventing the landlords from allowing inspection is that they think that as a whole they are not being given sufficient, and that there is too much delay, and so they say, "we are not going to run the risk."

41334. You mean financial delay?—Yes.

41335. That is not the fault of the Estates Commissioners—is it?—I think it is every fault of theirs.

41336. They are not getting the money; it is a question that the Treasury chest is not full enough?—That is what I always maintained and believed was the true case, but I was always told that the money was there, but it could not get through until we waited. Recently it has been said that it was not the absence of money that was causing the delay. I always believed it was.

41337. Leaving that out for the present, you say that the landlords have a feeling that the Estates Commissioners are not going to offer them a fair price?—Yes.

41338. What I want to know is, how do you suppose that a better state of things should be arrived at. On the one hand you say that the Estates Commissioners are perfectly right not to purchase without inspection. You know from what Sir Anthony has said, and what you have heard before, that the landlords have refused in many cases to allow inspection, and you say that the explanation of that is that they believe that the Estates Commissioners are not going to treat them fairly; in other words, that at this moment they don't want to sell. It comes to that, does it not?—They don't want to sell at the price offered.

41339. At the price which they think is going to be given by the Estates Commissioners?—Yes.

41340. Therefore, before a better state of things can be arrived at, you have got somehow or other to restore confidence among that class in order to make them allow the Estates Commissioners to make the inspections which you say are necessary?—Yes.

41341. How is that to be done?—I may say at once, with fairness to both landlords and Commissioners or sub-purchasers from them, I don't think that the thing can be carried through in such a way as to treat everybody fairly without more funds. They must be prepared to lose more money.

41342. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Or pay a higher range of prices?—If they pay higher they won't get the holdings taken.

June 19, 1907.
The O'Connor
Duo.

41343. **SIR ANTHONY MACDONNELL**.—They cannot recover from the tenant-purchasers the amount that they give to the landlords!—No. I think that there is a gap that will have to be bridged over to give the landlord his true value and to give the tenant-purchaser his land as cheaply as you want to give it to him.

41344. **CHAIRMAN**.—In other words, it comes to this: in your opinion, when you say that the land can be bought at a fair price at present without compulsion, you mean that the land can be bought only at a higher price than has been hitherto usually paid by the Estates Commissioners?—I might say I think that there is a great deal of land that could be bought even at present prices if there were quick sales; perhaps I should say at a price of a year or two ago, because prices have fallen just recently.

41345. Suppose that that is so, if the landlords refuse to allow inspection, how can that be brought into the market?—I think that with a little tact, inspection can be arranged, as if it was generally understood that a fair price would be given, and I think that it could be bought as I say even at the price of two years ago; of course they are giving less now.

41346. I don't know what you mean by a little tact!—A circular sent out by the Estates Commissioners won't bring landlords in, because they suspect; but I should have thought that some of the owners and agents could be approached.

41347. And told that the price which will be paid is a price which is likely to satisfy them?—Yes.

41348. **SIR ANTHONY MACDONNELL**.—Which cannot be recovered from the tenant?—No. I am sure it cannot.

41349. **CHAIRMAN**.—You say yourself there must be a gap!—There will be a gap if you want to cut up this huge quantity, because if you cut up this huge quantity there will be considerable difficulty in getting tenant occupiers, and you will only get tenant occupiers if you give it to them very cheap. This was the real difficulty.

41350. **SIR ANTHONY MACDONNELL**.—We have it, on the other hand, that there is not enough of grass land in Connemara to satisfy the demand for it for the enlargement of uneconomic holdings and the relief of congestion; that the supply of this land is not equal to the demand!—I do not accept that for one moment.

41351. **CHAIRMAN**.—It comes to this: in your opinion, before land can be bought tact has to be employed; by tact you mean that the Estates Commissioners have got to approach owners and agents and tell them that the price which they are likely to get is one that will give them satisfaction!—I don't think that a formal document from the Estates Commissioners' office would be the best way of doing it.

41352. If that is so, don't you come very near to what Mr. Sutherland just now suggested, that that is equivalent to telling the owners that the fair price shall be practically their price!—To some extent, yes, but what I maintain is that their price is the fair one.

41353. You meant that their price is the fair one?—Yes.

41354. In your view, the price which the landlord asks is the fair one?—I don't say that there are not some unreasonable ones.

41355. Generally speaking, you are of opinion that the price which the landlords are asking is the fair price?—Yes.

41356. Therefore, in order that this land may be bought at what you call the fair price, it will come to this, that the Estates Commissioners must approach privately owners and agents and inform them that they are now in a position to buy land at a price which is practically their price!—Yes. I don't think they need even go that far, because I think there are a number of landlords who would take a great deal lower than what I would call their price; but it is in their impression, rightly or wrongly, that the Estates Commissioners last year or so wanted to get the thing a great deal cheaper than they did before, and that there will be huge delay; and I have seen myself in which the delay has frightened them.

41357. Will you admit that in order to bring about this state of things, the Commissioners have got to

let it be known that they are prepared to make considerable advances upon recent prices?—That they will make some advance.

41358. A considerable advance upon recent prices!—I don't think they have bought much lately.

41359. You say yourself that prices have fallen lately!—Rather what they are offering.

41360. Well, recent offers then; that the offers in the immediate future are likely to be more favourable to landlords than recent offers!—Yes.

41361. Only by that means you think will the landlords be induced to sell?—That means would be, I am sure, effective. Whether more could be done with smaller means I am not prepared to say, but that means would at once bring in a very large quantity of land.

41362. That is what you mean by fair price; if we wish to buy voluntarily in this way, we have to come to the landlord's price!—I think, I started by saying that I considered the landlord's price a fair one, generally. In individual instances you may get an unreasonable owner.

41363. His lordship also questioned you with regard to the acquisition of grass lands, and asked you whether you did not think that the purchasing authority ought to obtain possession of grass lands before dealing with the highly congested areas, and I think you agreed to that!—I agreed that they should have some on hand.

41364. Am I right in thinking you have solely in your mind the possession of grass lands for the purpose of relieving congestion?—Yes.

41365. Planting migrants or enlarging uneconomic holdings?—Yes. Of course I have got another suggestion as to what is not directly enlarging, but improving uneconomic holdings.

41366. The moving of migrants is the use that you would make of grass lands in your possession!—Yes. You may remember that in answer to his lordship I said something about the state of the country as well as the removal of congestion because the two things are not necessarily the same.

41367. I am coming to that. You would support the possession of grass lands in the hands of the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners for the purpose of relieving congestion, would you not?—I would.

41368. And also you say on account of the state of the country!—Yes.

41369. What do you mean by that?—There has been a plan put before you which is by no means the relief of congestion which it might be desirable to carry out in order to quiet the country, and so on.

41370. What is that?—The plan was not to remove a family or household, but simply to give the son of a tenant a new holding. That would not, of course, in any sense relieve congestion. It might, on the other hand, create congestion. By giving one of the members of the family a new holding of grass land and leaving the father and mother and the rest of the family on the old congested holding, it would mean that you would have (perhaps probably in the future) more congested holdings than heretofore. That scheme was put before you.

41371. What connection do you want to draw between that and the present state of the country?—Because I think in parts of the country that that is the object much more than giving up the old holding for the enlargement of surrounding holdings. If you confine yourself to cases where they are giving up the old holdings you will require very much less grass land than if you are going to give new holdings to some all over the place.

41372. Is this your view: that there are two distinct questions. One is the question of obtaining land for the purpose of relieving congestions, that is to say, through migration, and the enlargement of uneconomic holdings, and there is also the other question, quite a distinct one, whether you should acquire grass lands for sub-division among the sons of tenants or other people who don't seem to have so good a claim upon the land; is that so?—Quite; and the doing of the latter may be desirable and may be a good work in providing a living for fellows all over the country, but it will not directly relieve congestion in any way.

41373. In fact might it not have the opposite effect and make it more difficult to relieve congestion?—It might not only make it more difficult to relieve congestion, but it might create, and probably would create, new congested districts in the future.

June 10, 1905.
The O'Connell
Don.

41374. If the grass lands of Roscommon were to be acquired and parcelled out among the sons of tenants and other people who are not directly connected with the land, would not it make it much more difficult to relieve the congested districts by schemes of migration?—Undoubtedly.

41375. That land is being used for other purposes?—Yes, and the land might itself become a congested district in the course of time.

41376. It would be as impossible to cure congestion by the agency of migration if the land were given to these people, as it would be if the land were allowed to remain in the hands of the landlord class, who refused absolutely to sell on any terms?—It would be more so in the case of the tenant's sons.

41377. Am I to understand that when you advocate the acquisition of a certain amount of grass lands, you advocate it simply and solely for the purpose of relieving congestion?—Yes; I think so.

41378. If that is your view, may I ask if you have any opinion as to what body should hold that land—the Estate Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board?—I think they have both been doing a good deal of work in the matter, and I think it would be very undesirable to take it away from either. Let each go on as it has been, only give the Congested Districts Board more power. I would not tie them up.

41379. Do you believe that if the Estate Commissioners were to obtain large tracts of grass land it would be feasible or possible for them to hold that land mainly for the purpose of relieving congestion?—I think it would be difficult.

41380. Do you believe it would be possible for the Estate Commissioners to hold that land until the Congested Districts Board were in a position to make use of it by planting migrants upon it?—It depends on how much they get. If they got a very large quantity, undoubtedly not; if they got a small quantity, probably yes.

41381. In your view, then, if they obtain a quantity largely in excess of the amount that the Congested Districts Board could utilize immediately the pressure upon the Estate Commissioners would be very great to break up that land among the sons of tenants?—I think it would.

41382. And others not directly connected with the land at present?—Yes.

41383. In that case would the state of the country be likely to improve?—I doubt it.

41384. Would it, in your opinion, be merely diverting the agitation from one source to another?—It might.

41385. Then may I take it that, in your view, if the grass land is to be held for the relief of congestion, the grass land should be held by the authority that is going to move the migrants—in other words, the Congested Districts Board?—Undoubtedly I think so. I don't know if I explained myself clearly before, but I think that it would be undesirable for the Estate Commissioners to buy grass land for the purpose of planting it out among Congested Districts Board migrants or for the Congested Districts Board to buy grass land for the purpose of utilizing it for migrants from estates bought by the Estate Commissioners. Each ought to deal with their own. An estate may be bought by the Estate Commissioners, and there may be congested holdings on it and they may want to remove them. Then I should say that they should remove them to land that they have bought, and the Congested Districts Board should remove their migrants to their land, and not crossways. I don't think it would be desirable to have the double scheme unless the land provided was so much in excess of the requirements that they did not know what to do with it.

41386. In your opinion both bodies should at one time only hold land sufficient to meet the immediate needs of congestion?—Yes. I see that particularly with regard to the Estate Commissioners in the same not merely of transferring migrants, but I think a great deal of good can be done by holding land adjoining estates purchased, and using that for grazing purposes for the use of the tenants on the estate at low figures. That is what they have been doing to a great extent now, and it is not at all an unpopular thing.

41387. Do you contemplate that it is desirable to continue the present system that both bodies—the Estate Commissioners and the Congested Districts

Board—should operate as purchasing authorities in the same area?—I don't see any reason why they should not. They might make a rule among themselves that one should not offer for any land that is being offered to the other.

41388. Is it not possible that friction and dissensions may be caused by differences as to price—might it not be that the price offered in both cases is not the same?—Quite.

41389. Is it, to your mind, desirable that within the same area there should be practically two Government bodies—regarding them as Government bodies for the moment—offering different prices?—You would have substantially the Congested Districts Board dealing with congested estates. The suggestion I have made is, let them deal with it more than the others, but I would not make any hard and fast rule. Any hard and fast rule that you make will create more difficulties than you get rid of.

41390. What is your objection to seeing the whole of Connemara, for instance, put under one purchasing authority?—I think that putting the whole of Connemara under the Estate Commissioners would be a mistake.

41391. Reverse it and put it under the Congested Districts Board?—I don't see the same objection to that, because I think that the Congested Districts Board at present know more about how to manage and deal with congested estates than the Commissioners do.

41392. Suppose you were to put the whole of Connemara under the Congested Districts Board, and make them the sole purchasing authority, do you see any objection to that?—I see one objection, that they would be buying a lot of uncongested estates, taking up time and money, that was quite immaterial to their business.

41393. Suppose you got over that: suppose they did not deal with estates that were not congested?—If you exclude the Estate Commissioners from Connemara you would have nobody that could deal with those estates.

41394. Suppose that there was a method by which the Estate Commissioners could be brought into operation in Connemara with regard to properties that were not in need of improvement: suppose, therefore, that the work of the Congested Districts Board was practically confined to poor estates, and estates which needed improvement, do you see any objection to that?—Yes; the difficulty of determining. It is exactly the same difficulty that you will have by making a rule instead of leaving it to each party to work out as they do at present. You will have it said "this estate is *ultra vires*" whichever body you go to. Take my own estate. It is a non-congested estate. Suppose you say that the Estate Commissioners are to deal solely with non-congested estates and not the Congested Districts Board. If offered to the Congested Districts Board they must deal with it, and you would have to have some third body to settle who is to do it. I don't see how you can have that without throwing work on one body that ought to go to the other.

41395. Sir ARTHUR MACDONAGH.—Do you see any objection to the Estate Commissioners being the sole purchasing authority in Connemara, with power to the Congested Districts Board to regulate the transfer to them of any estate which they please, leaving to the Congested Districts Board then the after-management of estates after purchase had been effected?—Yes, I do.

41396. What is it?—First of all, that the Estate Commissioners already have more work than they possibly do.

41397. Leave that out?—You ask my objections.

41398. I mean to say any fundamental objection apart from increase of establishment?—I think the Congested Districts Board know more about the estates, and it would be better to let them, when they have got the grass land from other sources, use the estate and see what arrangement they can make, rather than have one body buying and another parceling it up afterwards.

41399. You mean that the purchasing authority should also be the authority for subsequently dealing with it?—Yes.

41400. Because in fixing the price it is necessary to bear in mind what use it can subsequently be turned to?—Quite.

41401. How is that consistent with your statement regarding the Estate Commissioners in regard to the

price which they offer. You say they offer too little: but the Estates Commissioners in fixing the price must have regard to the use which afterwards the most are being turned to?—And I professed my remarks by saying that I did not in any way blame them personally, but I think I suggested that there might be a gap to be got over.

4406. What you propose really is a second bonus?—Or an increased bonus, but what I say is, even having regard to what can be got afterwards in many cases, I think more can be got than they think can be got.

4407. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—If the Congested Districts Board were the sole purchasing authority in Connaught, might not there be an arrangement by which estates not requiring special treatment would, on a certificate from the Congested Districts Board, be transferred from owner to tenant?—That can be done at present.

4408. Do you see any objection to that?—No, I don't, except that you are throwing a lot of uncongested estates on the Congested Districts Board, and before you can do that there is a very great deal of work which would occupy a very great deal of your time.

4409. In the transfer of land at present through the Congested Districts Board, is not it a fact that a great deal of the process is in the hands of the Estates Commissioners?—Yes.

4410. Would not that continue in any case?—Yes. You propose to leave it all the formal dealing?

4411. My question is this: do you see any difficulty in making the Congested Districts Board the purchasing authority in Connaught, with this provision, that where an estate does not require any special treatment from the Congested Districts Board, on a certificate from the Congested Districts Board, it will pass from the owner to the tenant, as other estates do in the non-congested area or outside of Connaught, through the agency of the Estates Commissioners?—Except that it is throwing on the Congested Districts Board an increased amount of work.

4412. What work would you throw on them?—To settle whether the estate should or should not pass. It would be a very great amount of work to get your schemes into proper order. I don't know whether your proposal would do away with direct sales.

4413. That is not so. It would enable the Congested Districts Board at once to deal with such congested estates as they acquire, and get over any danger that there would be a conflict as to which body should have any jurisdiction in that particular place?—But I don't think there would be any conflict.

4414. I think you don't see any difficulty in my suggestion?—My suggestion is to leave them as they are. There is no conflict. Your suggestion would throw a great deal of unnecessary work on the Congested Districts Board.

4415. But do you recollect that at the start you threw upon the Congested Districts Board the responsibility of determining all over Ireland whether an area should be scheduled or not?—Quite.

4416. Is not it much less than that to put on the Congested Districts Board the duty of determining whether an estate in Connaught should pass from the owner to the occupier without special treatment?—One does not negative the other, and because you throw a lot of work on them it does not follow that you would relieve them by the former.

4417. In your opinion, if some of those owners to whom you have referred were approached in an informal way there would be a chance of their selling to the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners at the prices that prevailed?—I think that a certain number would.

4418. Is not that a greater reason why the Congested Districts Board should have the funds necessary to enable them to go on with this work?—I think they would sell more quickly to the Congested Districts Board. Rightly or wrongly, landlords are under the impression—and I know many cases to point—that if you sell to the Congested Districts Board you get your money quickly. If you sell to the Estates Commissioners you don't.

4419. Is it not a fact that the Estates Commissioners cannot possibly hasten payment of the money to the owners in many cases? How can they do it

with all the other sales that have been agreed to, are before any sale that may be concluded to-day or to-morrow?—I know there is not enough money, of course. There has been blame thrown upon certain parties, who have been described as cunning crows, but I must say I don't think the collectors as a body are at all responsible for the delay, although if you bought from a private individual you would have a sale through in a month or two, while if you sell through the Estates Commissioners it will take two or three years. Of course, you have got in a private sale collectors on both sides.

4420. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Do you think title would be proved in a month or two if you sold to a private individual?—Yes. I have invested some of my purchase money in what some people would say is a foolish investment, the purchase of land in Ireland. In every case six weeks was the longest date for completion.

4421. CHAIRMAN.—What is your next point?—The districts in Mayo south of Belmullet. These districts, such as Beshocorra, Costello, &c., are no doubt poor, the land is bad, and there is not much of it capable of cultivation; but what there is of it consists chiefly of land capable of improvement by drainage and otherwise. The population is a sea-supported one, and there is no other land in the immediate vicinity available for enlargement. Improvement of the fishing, assistance in draining and improving the methods of cultivating the lands, exchange of seed potatoes, are suggested as remedies. There is a great deal of drainage that might be done out there with advantage. Of course, it is a very wet district. There is no grass land of any value. There is a good deal of uncultivated land, big tracts of country with no population. It is all moss and waste. Making roads might help. I don't think it is a district in which very much can be done except by trying to make the people as comfortable as possible. There is a good deal done by the Parish Committee. If you go around you will see at once where the Parish Committee has been at work by the difference in the appearance of the houses.

4422. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When you say uncultivated, do you mean absolutely desolate?—Yes. It is not land that would pay cultivating.

4423. CHAIRMAN.—Would it grow sheep?—Some of it, the inland district. The lace industry is doing some good in the district.

4424. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Only for the women?—Yes. In some of the inland districts which border on grass lands the enlargement of holdings, rather than migration, might be useful, but everything possible should be done to encourage all local industries. Foxford is an instance of what can be done in a comparatively short time without any heroic methods of migration. The members of the Commission have been to Foxford. It is quite worth seeing. It is quite extraordinary.

4425. Mr. SOUTHERLAND.—We have been in other places where local industries have not been so successful?—It is quite extraordinary what they have done at Foxford. I saw the industry there when it was started, when it was in a very small way. It is wonderful how the district around has changed.

4426. There are some places that have not succeeded?—Yes; that is due to some extent to want of management; not bad management.

4427. Was there anything in the case of Foxford that would tend to make it more successful than other places?—It looked a very hopeless place to start anything in. It is in the wilds of Mayo.

4428. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I think you will find that Foxford is the only project of this class that the Congested Districts Board has put its hand to?—I remember going down there on one occasion with my father when the people around Foxford were anxious to get help from the Congested Districts Board, and it was for the purpose of trying to get this help that we were asked to go down to assist.

4429. Mr. SOUTHERLAND.—Did they get assistance?—They did, but the people set it going themselves.

4430. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—There was help given on educational grounds. There was a loan of £10,000 on easy terms, which has almost been repaid entirely, and there were capitation grants for beginners who were not trained?—It is extraordinary what they have done, and it is not only in the factories, but in the cottages around. They have improved the whole district. It is not easy to get a man to manage local

June 12, 1897.
The O'Casey
Doc.

June 10, 1907,
The O'Connor
Doc.

industries. Fosted is lucky no doubt in that respect. They have a very large installation of machinery and plant.

41427. CHAIRMAN.—It struck me that it was mostly women who were employed?—Yes. There was a large part of it burned not so very long ago, and I was there shortly after, and they said it would not interfere with them very much.

41428. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Are the wages good, do you know?—They are not. They would not be probably high as compared with wages in England, but I forget what they are.

41429. Do you think it has attracted any population?—It was an excessively congested district. You would hardly want to import people into congested districts. As regards the relief of congestion, the Congested Districts Board has passed itself the most efficient body for dealing with the question, and, if scheduled areas are retained as a basis, the purchase of all lands in the district scheduled should be in their hands; they should have power to buy grass lands outside these districts, and the Estates Commissioners should not in any way interfere with their operations, and should merely be used for the purpose of financing and carrying through the legal part of their purchase and sales. Of course I do not think it would be desirable to transfer to the Congested Districts Board all the trouble of investigating title and that kind of thing.

41430. CHAIRMAN.—I think that that statement rather contradicts the attitude you took up before earlier in the day. I understand what you now say to mean that if the congested districts areas are to be retained the Board should have the entire control of these areas?—Yes; but then it was put to me that there would be such a very large change in the scheduled areas—the point suggested to me was the whole of Connemara should be scheduled. Well, I think that completely alters the question. If you schedule the whole of Connemara, you will be dealing with an enormous quantity of uncongested estates, and I think it undesirable to put these estates in the hands of the Congested Districts Board. The income of the Congested Districts Board should be largely increased, so as to enable them to give more assistance to the very poor districts, either for building piers, providing boats, making roads, drains, etc., and subsidizing any industries that may require it and might be useful. I do not think there is a great deal of difference of opinion about that. The only difference is how to get the money. Their work through the Parish Committees should be encouraged and enlarged. In some places where a Parish Committee is at work a great improvement in the condition of the people is visible, but so far these Parish Committees have not done much towards draining and improving the lands, as the means at their disposal were insufficient for this purpose. Such work might usefully be done by them, but strict supervision would be necessary, and any Committee found to be wasting its funds should at once have them cut off. I am not in any way blaming the Parish Committees for not doing this. They have nearly always made a rule to improve the dwellings.

41431. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—They begin with the homestead?—Yes.

41432. And although they begin with them, in some instances they have gone outside?—Yes.

41433. You think it desirable that draining and fencing should occupy their attention? I do. The way they do it is a good way—not giving the whole cost, but assistance towards it. As a general rule, they give the cost of the material.

41434. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Do the Parish Committees contribute to drainage schemes?—No; but if their finances were improved, they could usefully do so.

41435. I thought you said that was the practice now?—No; it is not. They improve the homestead. My suggestion is that they should do so.

41436. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You will be glad to hear that in some instances they have gone in for drainage?—Drainage can only be done by them in a small way. Big arterial drainage could not be attempted.

41437. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—You have said that Parish Committees were only effective when they had a good Chairman and when the priest took an interest in them. Where the priest does not take an

interest, is it not satisfactory?—In the majority of cases, no.

41438. Are there any indications of a better state of things? Are there indications of a public spirit being elicited by the system of Parish Committees?—There are such a large number that do succeed.

41439. You think there must be something else besides the individual initiative of the priest?—I think they want guiding at present. In a few years, they may be able to do without the guidance. In most districts you will get the priest to help.

41440. He is the moving spirit at present?—He is.

41441. Can you give an opinion upon the merits of the two systems of Parish Committees that in Donegal which works by a system of priors, and that in Mayo, which works by a system of grants?—I am afraid I cannot. I do not know anything about the Donegal system. The Mayo system seems to work on the whole very well.

41442. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is there any decided element in the Parish Committees?—There is.

41443. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The Parish Committee is composed of some ecclesiastical members, of some indirectly elected and some members directly elected by the people of the parish.

41444. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do Parish Committees carry on their operations indifferently whether the land belongs to a landlord or is purchased?—It improves the dwellings.

41445. Do they improve the property of the landlords?—It is hardly the property of the landlords.

41446. In the drainage to which you refer?—That is not done.

41447. You are asked what they have done?—It is more clearing cattle out of the houses and building sheds, and keeping the houses properly thatched.

41448. Mr. KAVANAGH.—It is more sanitary work they do than improving?—Yes, sanitation.

41449. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—They build cottages for the cattle and improve the dwellings?—They don't really build. They give a grant towards building. They give what is generally estimated at the cost of the material. In congested areas the work of the Agricultural Department should be left to the Congested Districts Board. The latter body seem to have succeeded better in the poor districts. The Department formulates schemes for whole counties which are not suitable for the very poor districts. Moreover, the Department give instructions chiefly by letters, whereas the Congested Districts Board go direct to the poor man, and do not require him to go to them. I do not wish in any way to suggest that the Department is not doing very useful work. I merely wish to point out that, in my opinion, it is not so well adapted as the Congested Districts Board to carrying on its work in the very poor and congested areas. The Department is really more for the county at large.

41450. CHAIRMAN.—You told us about that this morning?—I have not so far dealt with the migration and enlargement of holdings, which is probably the most important question before the Commission. I do not think this remedy can be regarded as a complete solution of the problem. If it were possible to carry it out in the wholesale way proposed by Mr. Fitzmaurice and others, it would probably lead to complete ruin in many districts. He advocates cutting up almost all the grass land in the country, and dividing it into comparatively small tillage or mixed farms. This would almost necessarily put an end to all market for hay and other similar farm produce; the cost of transit, even at low rates, would prohibit its being transported any great distance, and the small farmer would of necessity be bound to have it consumed on his own farm.

41451. I do not quite follow that. Why would it put an end to all market for hay?—Because there is nobody to use it, assuming that the small producer does not consume it.

41452. Well, still I do not quite understand?—At present you have a large area of grass land. You have a comparatively small portion of that in meadow. The class known as the eleven months tenants, so much objected to, buy a large quantity of hay. You are going to do away with them, and cut up all these grass lands. The result will be an enormous production of hay on that grass land.

41453. Why?—That is what the small man will do.

41454. Why not grass it?—In the first place, he

won't have the capital, and secondly, hay for the time being will pay him better.

41455. Why would it not pay the big man?—I only say for the time being. It is not an economic thing to do. It deteriorates the land. But that they will grow hay and grow it largely I have not a shadow of doubt.

41456. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Not if there is no market for it?—They could not graze it without stock. They are not provided with money for stock. Then it is not so economic. You can feed a hundred beasts on, say, two hundred acres more easily than you can feed ten on twenty acres. The labour of looking after them and cost of fencing will make it quite impossible to feed the stock. It has been suggested by one or two witnesses to in-fod the cattle in the winter, but that is out of the question for the small farmer.

41457. CHAIRMAN.—I take your two instances—the cost of fencing and labour and looking after the cattle. The fences are made by the Congested Districts Board?—They are charged to the tenant very often. I am talking now of the Estates Commissioners' work.

41458. There may be a certain amount charged to the tenant, but practically the loss is the Congested Districts Board's?—You will not get your stock to do as well on the small patches.

41459. I cannot understand why. If you get a field of a certain size which at present grazes a certain number of stock, and is in the possession of a large man, and if you give it to a small man, why would it not be able to bear the same amount of stock?—If you cut the field into two or into ten it will be different.

41460. Leave it as it is. Say five or six acres?—The large bulk of the fields are not cut up into five or six acres.

41461. What do they run to?—Thirty or forty acres is what we have here.

41462. Take a field of thirty acres that at present is portion of a man's holding of 200 acres. You take it away from that man and give it to another. Why should that field be less able to carry the same amount of stock when in the possession of a small man than it did when it was one of five fields and part of 200 acres?—There is a reason, because the small man would not constantly change his stock like the big man from one field to another. I think that this map gives a very fair instance of the difference. You can see the original fences here and you can see new ones, and you can see that there is a vast difference in the number of fences. (Producer weep.)

41463. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—If mixed farming was practised on the new holdings, do you see an equal difficulty?—I am coming to that in a minute.

41464. CHAIRMAN.—Does the big grazier take his cattle from one field to another?—Yes.

41465. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—We have had a lot of evidence to show that on these small fields the farmers can keep their stores and market them at an early age. Mr. Stuart pointed out how that is done, and we have plenty of evidence showing how in-fodding is practised in Ulster?—I shall come to that in a minute.

41466. You say, "If it were possible to carry it out in the wholesale way proposed by Mr. Finucane and others it would probably lead to complete ruin in many districts." What I understood Mr. Finucane meant was that land should be taken when necessary from holdings exceeding £100 rateable valuation, or, if necessary, exceeding £50 in rateable value. That is not splitting up grass lands into small holdings?—Yes, because he does not propose to allot it into new holdings of £50. He proposes making the new holdings quite small ones.

41467. Thirty to fifty acres?—Thirty acres won't be very large for grass land, if it is to be a grazing holding; but what Mr. Finucane proposes is tillage.

41468. The idea was that he would have a holding of, say, twenty or thirty acres, and part would certainly be in tillage, and people who deprecate that way of looking at it, and say that the Irish tenant is extremely lazy, and will feed the cattle instead of tilling the land, say that this is a very bad way of doing it; but I may point out to you that we have evidence of where small holdings have been created in the West of Ireland, and that result has not followed, and that a considerable portion of the land has been brought under tillage and a sufficient portion of the

land kept in pasture, and that people do keep the cows and the stores instead of going through the process of the middleman. That is the sort of stage of society you wish to reach, though you tell us that stage can never be reached; but the actual fact is it has already been reached?—I should fancy that there would not be the slightest difficulty in pointing to very many cases where it has not.

41469. Very possibly. I know, for instance, in your own case, in part of your evidence, you point to that; but the explanation is that the division was made so late in the year that it could not be done otherwise?—I think I have an answer for that when we come to it.

41470. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Do I understand that, acre for acre, the large holding contains more stock than the small one?—Assuming that it is going to be a grazing holding.

41471. I ask the general question, and it applies to grazing and other holdings. Is it according to experience that a large holding contains more stock, acre for acre, than a small one?—More economically maintained; more stock per acre on the larger.

41472. Is not I am talking of numbers?—You can get more on a small, but it won't pay you to have it.

41473. Is not it the case that they do maintain more stock?—I say they could maintain more on the small, but, in practice, they maintain more on the large. You can do it, but not economically.

41474. Is it done?—Not as a rule.

41475. You are referring to Ireland?—To the West of Ireland. You find more per acre on the large than the small.

41476. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Would you mind developing that a little and showing us how you can have more on the small holding, and why it does not pay?—Because on the small holding, supposing it is a grazing holding, you pay a man and his family to look after, say, twenty acres. I am now excluding tillage. On the large you have a man and his family looking after 200 acres.

41477. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—The small holding would occupy the tenant himself and his family, and you pay no man?—That is a fallacy, and it would be grossly unfair to the tenant to value the land and give him nothing for his time looking after it.

41478. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—The official returns in Ireland and Great Britain show that there was more stock maintained in small holdings, acre for acre, than on large?—I have not the official returns. I know the holdings about me where there is very little stock.

41479. Mr. KAYMAKCH.—The witness is assuming that the small holdings will be in grass?—I was dealing with it on the assumption that it was a grazing holding. As a grazing holding it would not pay. It could not pay because it is too small. Then you are going to put it into tillage?

41480. Mixed farming?—The suggestion that has been made about mixed farming was to stall-feed in winter. If you refer to Mr. Moran's evidence, you will find he suggests that himself. If you don't do that, what is to be done with the produce? I have read a vast amount of evidence, but I found very little—and the little there was of a very meagre and sketchy nature—as to what the produce was to be. Dealing with this; supposing it is land in Roscommon, as to what it is to produce, I found practically no evidence. I have read the evidence of some experts, or so-called experts, as to how a mixed farm was to be worked. They were mostly men who, as far as I know, had been in Government institutions, where they always live on their farms.

41481. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Mr. Moran himself has an agricultural farm in the West, and has worked it. He has also practised in-fodding in winter. Have you read his evidence?—I have, very carefully.

41482. What do you say to it?—I did not know that Mr. Moran had practised it personally. If he has, it is on a very small scale, he has got so much else to do.

Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—I think he farms 200 acres.

41483. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—As a matter of fact he had a large farm which was under a system of agriculture under his own supervision for a number of years?—I was not aware of that with regard to Mr. Moran; but I may say that in our place we have tried in-fodding of cattle, and I know that a great

June 19, 1907.

The O'Connell
Don.

June 10, 1907.

The O'Connell
Don.

many round as have abandoned it as hopeless to make it pay. You will find it is being abandoned all over the country.

41484. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When you say you have tried re-feeding, do you mean you have sold them eventually to the butcher?—Yes. For the English and the Dublin markets, and local requirements.

41485. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I can give you the exact locality in which Mr. Doogan's farm is situated. It is in Tarrane, Ballybennet.—We have found that re-feeding does not pay. A good many years ago it was quite in practice, but it has been given up.

41486. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—In Ireland?—In Roscommon. It is done in Wexford a good deal, but there are reasons for it there.

41487. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—And in Ulster?—A good deal probably in Ulster.

41488. Would you not consider that the conditions would be quite as favourable in the West?—No, the conditions for re-feeding would not be as favourable in the West, and you find that in Wexford, where they do it, they would tell you they would rather not, but there is no other way to utilise the land. They do it to get the manure, but it is very expensive, and hardly pays.

41489. Why do they do it if it did not pay?—If they could have the land in grass it would pay them better; but their land is unsuitable for constant grass.

41490. Are not wide acres in the West of Ireland more suitable for tillage?—I should say there are some. I should say you would not get the small farmer to do it, and then what crops are you going to grow?

41491. Sir ARTHUR MACDONAGH.—Cereals and roots?—The only thing that will grow at all is oats. Wheat is out of the question. We should not have heat for the wheat. Barley would not pay. Rye could be grown a bit. Oats would grow, but it is not a good crop at all. I have seen the herds' gardens in these grass lands, where they have tillage, and the oats have stalks six feet high, but there is very little oats.

41492. Mr. KAVANAGH.—That is the first year?—It will never be good tillage land. It is too sticky. It will grow fair oats, but not good potatoes at all. As to roots, it grows very poor crops. The large bulk of Roscommon land is on limestone, and the climate is decidedly wet, so that you have not a very big range of crops to choose from.

41493. Was it not all mixed farming at one time? Not since Free Trade.

41494. You think Free Trade blasted out tillage in the country?—There is no doubt about it.

41495. You think Protection would bring back tillage?—I don't know. Tillage will not pay as compared with grass.

41496. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Don't you think improved methods of cultivation would do a good deal to bring back tillage?—I may say I myself do a certain amount of tillage. I have two or three farms, and the tillage farm is the only one on which there is a loss. I spend over £1,000 a year in labour. There is a big loss, and everything is worked as well as possible. There are many more improved methods adopted by me than will for many years be adopted by the small farmers.

41497. You may not be surprised to hear that in East Donegal there are many tenants who live exclusively by mixed farming, and that it is the regular system of farming in the division?—I think that possible. I don't know East Donegal. If you take the small tenants' holdings you will find the quantity of grass lands increasing. If you go around Roscommon I can show you acres and acres of tented land turned from tillage into grass, and when you find the tenant doing that it is likely that if you give them grass lands they will go and do the opposite?

41498. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Is it a question of want of labour?—If you allow for the labour, it does not pay. If you do not allow for the labour it does, and you can get a big profit. In the good farms you will find very little given to tillage. If you go around Castlebar you will find a great deal of land in the hands of small farmers that has in the last twenty years changed from tillage to grass.

41499. Sir ARTHUR MACDONAGH.—Do you connect that with emigration at all?—No doubt, to some extent.

41500. Has there been any introduction of labour-saving appliances in the meantime?—Very little, and I don't know how it would be introduced under the present system, because what you do is to cut up a grass farm and give each a piece, and the farmer generally has only a small capital.

41501. Is not the effect of your argument a sort of non sequitur—we cut do nothing; leave things as they are?—No, I have got a suggestion to make later on. I don't say you cannot do anything, but I say you could not expect these small farms to return proportionately as much as the same acreage in a big one, and if you carry out the whole scheme you will have the best state worse than the first.

41502. Upon that, I think, you are in direct conflict with the expert evidence of the Department of Agriculture, which says that you can make more out of a small farm in agriculture than in grass?—Whether I am or not, I say that an expert there exists in a man who as a rule is an expert in losing money, because there is not one of these Government farms or Government institutions that is carried on at a profit or pays its way. Take the national experience in both England and Ireland since Free Trade was introduced, and everybody will tell you that the general practice has been to reduce the quantity of tillage.

41503. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That is not so; it is increasing in Scotland?—In England and Ireland.

41504. In England very slightly; in Ireland very much?—It probably decreased before it began to increase in Scotland.

41505. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—You refer to your own locality. You will not be surprised to hear that in East Donegal a 25-acre farmer would not dream of earning his living by allowing his land to remain in grass; he would consider he would get three times as much out of it by sowing it?—Take a broad view of the question, and see where tillage has increased and where it has decreased, and you will find that on the small holdings it has decreased. Take England. You will find large quantities of land given out of tillage, and you will find nearly every tillage farmer telling you it does not pay. If the experts are right that tillage paid, how can you explain the fact that it is decreasing?

41506. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But do you think tillage has decreased on small holdings?—In Roscommon, undoubtedly. I can remember many fields that used to be in tillage that are now under grass on the small holdings.

41507. I quite admit what you say as regards large holdings, but I am clinging to small holdings?—Yes, will see them growing grass. When you find that going on in existing conditions, is it likely when you have good grass land that takes five years to produce at least, that the tenant will go and break up a large quantity of that? What he will do is he will have a patch of tillage for his own home use. He will have a potato garden. In order to have a potato garden he will have an oat plot. These are the only tillage crops grown there now to any extent. My own experience of tillage is that it is a disastrous loss.

41508. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Therefore your prospect is that the whole of the land will go back to a state of nature again?—If you call the grass land a state of nature. I think you will have all this land under tillage where it cannot be kept under anything else, because it won't produce anything if you don't till it occasionally; and that land that requires to be tilled occasionally will be tilled. That is about what is being done now, but the land that would do best in grass will be left in grass.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That is a very dark prospect.

41509. Mr. KAVANAGH.—You will find that the land that has to be tilled and is tilled, pays the man who tills it?—It pays him something, but if it was good grass land it would pay him more. He can do it cheaper than he could.

41510. Good grass, certainly?—Good grass land is largely what we are dealing with. I regard the introduction of cattle as out of the question for the small farmer. It necessitates the large use of oats and artificial food stuffs. Even the larger farmers, with plenty of capital, have found that it does not pay, and have given it up. It has been largely tried at my Clonsilla home farm, but without success. However, this complete transformation of the country into small farms is not a practical question, as migration on the wholesale scale would be impossible.

to carry out. The people would not move. No doubt, when a Commissioner or inspector goes round, many will say they will go, but when it comes to the point of moving, the position is very different, e.g., this Clonilla estate. A large body of tenants said they wanted new holdings, and would migrate. The Estates Commissioners insisted on getting land at Belanagare for them. Eventually, with a trivial exception, not one would move, and as the Estates Commissioners find they can buy more grass land than they are able to dispose of to migrants, they have not taken 145 acres offered to them at their own valuation. There was a very large amount of correspondence between my father and the Estates Commissioners as to providing grass lands at Belanagare. He offered to undertake to give the Belanagare grass lands to the Estates Commissioners whenever the Belanagare estate was sold. He said he thought it was useless for Clonilla. However, after a lot of discussion, there was an amicable agreement—something between 300 and 400 acres—and taken, and the Clonilla tenants were asked one day to go down and say would they take holdings. The Clonilla tenants were given the choice of the holdings then. Some thirteen, to be accurate, went down to examine the holdings, and although they had been clamouring for new tenancies, only one of the thirteen said he would take the holding. None of the others would move, and the result was the Belanagare land, to my mind quite rightly, was divided up among the Belanagare tenants, with the exception of one more or less non-resident tenant at Clonilla who had been previously asked to go.

41510. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—The land was really insufficient for the Belanagare tenants. It is a small point, and I won't even examine upon it, but I believe, as a matter of fact, some Clonilla tenants have since moved to the Taffie estate, where land is provided for them—A few of them.

41511. The land in Belanagare was really insufficient for the Belanagare tenants?—Insufficient in the sense, as Sir Anthony MacDonnell pointed out a few minutes ago, that they did not know what they had. There are large fields shown on the map that had to be given to two publicans.

41512. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—But they have migrated now, have they not?—Not a very large number. Three or four, or at the outside, half-a-dozen.

41513. What made them change their opinion?—Because they considered the Taffie land cheaper, and farther, it was nearer.

41514. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—It is a fact that a number of the Clonilla tenants have since asked the Estates Commissioners to let them move to other lands, thereby leaving some land available in Clonilla for distribution among those who remain?—I dispute that fact.

41515. I am misled to that effect, if I may say so?—I think when you inquire into the question, you will find they are not tenants at all. They are relatives of tenants who want holdings.

41516. It is a slow matter, as you say, but the spirit of migration is beginning to move, and tenants are more willing to move now than two years ago?—If they get a really good bargain, yes; otherwise, no; but I don't think the number of migrants has increased very much. It is a very slow process, but the spirit is moving the people. As we are on this subject, the Estates Commissioners bought this Clonilla estate, which they made so much trouble about enlarging. On one townland, where there is real congestion, they have done nothing, because it just happens they cannot get people to go there. I might say there has been no relief of congestion whatever on the Clonilla estate.

41517. I would not put it so lightly as that. It was only by accident by the departure of people from Clonilla, thereby making it possible to distribute the land they relinquish amongst the people left?—What is being done is this. Tenant A has been moved and tenant B given A's holding. Although there are a large number of changes nominally, actually there is only one; so you have a great many more changes reported than in fact took place. I should say there is no appreciable difference as regards congestion of the estate. One labouring man's holding has been enlarged up to about 64 or 65. That is almost the net result. One big man was, however, transferred

to Belanagare, and that helped some half-a-dozen tenants.

41518. CHAIRMAN.—You say that the Estates Commissioners could not find people to occupy grass lands?—Yes.

41519. I think you said that the result of this action was that only one tenant moved from Clonilla estate to the grass land, and eventually it was divided up among the Belanagare tenants?—There was one big man who was arranged for by my father.

41520. He went to Belanagare?—Yes.

41521. With the exception of him?—There was the brother of the Belanagare schoolmaster. He was only fifteen shillings a year.

41522. The point is, do you think the breakdown of the attempt to migrate to Belanagare from Clonilla was due in any way to the feeling of the Belanagare tenants about having land divided up amongst Clonilla men?—I don't think there was any very serious difficulty. I think there would have been a little friction. Of course the Belanagare men were aware they were going to get a very large quantity, or rather more than they wanted.

41523. Is that not sufficient explanation why the Clonilla men would not do that?—No; but I think it probably had some influence. You see, some of Belanagare land could not be used up.

41524. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Are you sure, I am informed that the area sold was insufficient to exchange small holdings on the Belanagare property?—The land had to be divided up between two publicans because there was no one else to take it.

41525. It was the remainder, and they were on the estate, and that was the reason it was given to them to finish up the business.

41526. CHAIRMAN.—Is it quite certain that the refusal of people to take that land was not due to the fact that it was known that the two publicans in question would like to have the land?—I don't think it was known until the last minute. It was not suggested. I may say that there are one or two now in Belanagare who are asking for land that was not provided.

41527. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Is that several months ago?—There are a few still waiting land, but there was more than would satisfy them, and there is that there still if anyone wants it.

41528. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You said just now that one of the tenants who migrated was a labourer with a very small holding. You told us, I think, some time before, that your labour bill was something over £1,000 a year. Do you always find it easy to get labour when you want it?—No.

41529. To what class do the labourers belong?—Small holders.

41530. Where do you get labour from when you are there?—Simply and solely from our own tenants.

41531. From small holdings?—Up to 64 or 65.

41532. Then, as soon as the bulk of the tenants became (do we use the expression we hear so much of) economic, the labour supply will greatly shrink?—I suppose it would. Of course that has not happened yet, because there has been no change on the Clonilla estate yet. At present there is rather more difficulty than usual about labour on account of the work of the Computed Districts Board, and to some extent of the Estates Commissioners, because they are employing labour largely, and just at the time the crops are being reaped there is great difficulty in getting it. They are getting higher rates than usual. I do not object to that.

41533. We have been met with two somewhat inconsistent theories. One is that men are leaving the country in great numbers because it is impossible to find employment at home, and on the other hand that the farmers can't employ labour because labour becomes so scarce and the price has gone very much up. Those two things are rather inconsistent?—I know a number of young men who would not come in to work with us. They were in rather a better position than the men I have been speaking of. They are labourers who go over to England to work. It may seem strange, but it is a fact.

41534. They are better paid there, are they not?—They are, but if you take out their expenses and all that I doubt if there is very much difference. They are paid 14s. a week, and our rate is 2s. a day.

41535. CHAIRMAN.—Do you imagine a labourer working in Roscommon could in, say, seven months

Jan 19, 1907.
The O'Casey
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June 10, 1907.

The O'Connell
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save £15?—If he was a married man with a family certainly he could not.

41536. Because it is not that about what they do in England. Those men when they go away within less than seven months come back with about £15 saved?—That is putting it high.

41537. I should have thought it low. I was going to put the women as earning 12s. and the men 15s. to 12s. 6d.—Very few women go from our part. Of course the class who go away are generally young men, and their actual support, living with father and mother, would not be very much. When you say 15s. do you count the initial expense of going?

41538. I fancy it works out at about £15 actually saved?—I don't think it is quite that.

41539. Sir ANTOINETTE MACDONNELL.—How much do they save going to England—about 12s. a week?—It seems enormous. It means 12s. or more than that, because they have railway fare and all that to pay out, and if they go as agricultural labourers in England they don't get a pound a week.

41540. CHAIRMAN.—Don't they in harvest time?—I don't think so.

CHAIRMAN.—They go, I fancy, from one harvest to another.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—There are the two harvests.

CHAIRMAN.—And then there is potato picking.

41541. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Do you happen to know anything of the enlargement that took place on the neighbouring estate—the French Estate near Castlebar?—No, I do not.

41542. CHAIRMAN.—In a note on migratory labourers prepared by the new Department and printed in the Appendix to our Second Report it is stated:—"At the same time the Donegal man, having long frequented the districts in which they work, have a good idea of where employment is likely to be found. Most of the work is done by the piece or on special wages. Turnip singling and hoeing, potato planting, and pulling turnips or mangels are usually done by the piece. Also when corn cannot be cut with the machine it is often harvested on piece-work wages. The working day is ten hours, but on piece-work larger hours are frequently worked. Wages vary much more than amongst the Achill workers, and it is therefore difficult to generalize as to earnings; 4s. 6d. is considered a fair day's wage for turnip singling, and 5s. for potato planting and turnip or mangel pulling. When on time wages the usual weekly pay is from 15s. to 21s., though in dull times wages will fall as low as 12s. In harvest time the practice is to pay a wage for the harvest months, which works out commonly from 21s. to 24s. a week, together with a considerable allowance of food and drink, viz., bread and cheese, with beer or some other drinkable. When cutting, binding, and stacking corn by the acre 4s. to 5s. a day is a common earning. In many cases men stipulate that the harvest wages shall be paid for a certain number of weeks, which holds good whether the harvest lasts that time or not. In Berwickshire, Donegal men are employed, but not to the same extent as in the Lothians. In West Lothian they are not much needed after the corn harvest." Then lower down "The savings of the Donegal workers are not easy to estimate, as these depend, necessarily, on the regularity of employment, the wages received, and the disposition of the individual workers, but, so far as can be estimated, a good steady worker, with fair luck, will save from £12 to £15 during the season of from five to six months."—In putting it at 12s. I mean putting it on time.

41543. The point arose when, in answer to Sir Francis Mowatt, you said labour was very often difficult to get. The explanation is that as long as men can go back after five or six months in England with £12 or £15, and sometimes more, saved, they are not likely to go out of their way to take local employment?—Of course men who earn £1 a week by back-work, like moving hay and all that kind of work, would not. The enlargement of holdings can, I believe, where grass lands adjoin small, poor holdings, be carried out advantageously, and provided proper steps are taken to ensure that proper use is made of the grass land so added, such enlargement would be beneficial. Great precautions should be taken against sub-division and against constant meadowing, and unless this is done the added land will be ruined. It is quite impossible, absolutely, to prevent sub-division; it can be kept in check, but the present

powers of the Land Commission are wholly inadequate for the purpose, and the idea of rate-collectors interfering about it is ridiculous. The enlargement of holdings was tried on a very small scale by my late father, in 1870, in Cloonacree. He then cut up a portion of a grass farm and added it to a number of adjoining small holdings. It has on the whole worked well, but, though everything possible was done to prevent sub-division, still such took place, and has been now sanctioned by the Estates Commissioners. The added land has, of course, been kept in grass by the tenants, as no doubt will be the case nearly everywhere. On what was till recently my Belanagore Estate a large quantity of grass land was, last May, cut up among the tenants, and this year most of it was used by them for meadow, and unless the constant meadowing is prevented the land will be ruined. One result of the cutting up of the grass lands on a large scale in the Belanagore district has been to reduce the price of hay, there being no buyers. I have this year (largely to help tenants) bought hay at £1 per ton, whereas formerly the price used to be double this. If all the grass lands were cut up as there would be no market at all.

41544. Sir ANTOINETTE MACDONNELL.—I understood you to say that this is an indication that splitting up this grass land will be injurious, as they won't cultivate it?—They won't.

41545. In regard to keeping this grass land in meadow, was not it a fact that the land to which you refer was only split up in April or May?—Yes.

41546. Is not it a fact that it was not then fenced and could not be grazed?—Yes.

41547. And the only use they could put it to was meadowing?—Yes.

41548. Is it not also a fact that since then the purchasers have at their own expense made the fences?—Not entirely their own expense. There have been grants to help them.

41549. Mainly at their own expense?—Largely at their own expense.

41550. It is mentioned to me here on the authority of the Estates Commissioners that on many of the estates that have been bought, such as the Henry, Bocking, Clannacree, and Lonsdown estates, the tenants who have been given these unenclosed lands have themselves made fences and brought a considerable quantity of land under cultivation?—I can't answer for the others, because I don't happen to know them.

41551. I myself have seen land brought under cultivation in the West of Ireland, in Galway?—I may say that in Roscommon very little of the sub-divided land is brought under tillage, and with regard to the fencing, that is done; you will have the meadows this year despite the fencing.

41552. That is a prophecy?—I can see it growing. I was down there four days ago.

41553. What you say here cannot be taken as an argument as to the future, because of the reason that I give that it was too late to do anything except meadow last year, and the present year they have only made fences, and, I assume, brought some land under cultivation?—Out of the 400 acres I saw when down there some days ago I saw only one plot under tillage, and I asked what it was, and they said, "Oh, some fool of a fellow has broken up that good land to till." The plot was a road.

41554. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—If a tenant wanted to till would he not experience for the first few years on going into his new holding great difficulty?—Yes.

41555. He would not do much at first, because he would require capital for tillage on a large scale?—He would let the grass. He is used to it.

41556. Even if he is disposed afterwards to till?—I don't believe he ever will till, because I think it will be the wrong thing to do with this grass land, a great deal of which is fattening land.

41557. My point is that for the first couple of years he does not do much, but one must not conclude that he would not till afterwards?—No, I suppose not; but what I call attention to is the tendency not to till. I think it is an advantage to there to have a bit of grass, so it is an adjunct to their holding.

41558. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—You say it is easier to let in grass?—Yes.

41559. And you say it is the most profitable?—Most profitable.

41560. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I don't quite understand what you said just now about destroying the

hay market altogether; that hay has fallen from £2 to £1 a ton?—I don't say that the fall is entirely due to this. It is partly due to the good crop.

41560. You say that one result of the cutting up of grass lands has been to reduce the price of hay, there being no buyers, and that you have this year got hay for £1 a ton, whereas formerly the price was double this, and if all the grass land were cut up there would be no market at all. How is that consistent with the theory that the cheapest and best way to treat the land is to keep it in grass?—As long as there is a market even at £1 a ton it will pay a great deal more than the anxiety, because this land is being let to them at 15 shillings an acre, and some of them used to pay 64 shillings for it.

41561. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What do they get of the acre?—From three to four tons. This is fattening land, some of it, and is as good as any down there. The reason I am putting this here—and I fancy that some of the Commissioners will agree with me—is that the Estates Commissioners should have some power to see that the land is properly used, because there is very great danger that some of the smaller tenants, the poorer ones, will treat the land by continually mowing it.

41562. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—What power would you give, and what would be the sanction of that power?—There is one way that it could be done.

41563. Is it that they would sell them up?—Yes.

41564. Is that possible?—Or not vest it until after an interval of three or four years.

41565. Is that possible?—It is difficult. You can do a great deal by holding the vesting order up for a certain period.

41566. You would have to vest in the end?—Yes.

41567. In the meantime who would pay the interest on the loan?—The man in occupation.

41568. You would get the 3½ per cent. out of him, and you would vest it ultimately?—If the man gets the right way of doing things for four or five years he will probably continue it.

41569. CHAIRMAN.—Does the anxiety so far as ultimate ownership is concerned begin from the vesting order?—Yes. That is postponing it, but with legislation you could make the anxiety start straight off. You could make provision for that, because it is only a financial matter.

41570. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I am afraid that we must look to the growth of self-interest?—I think it is a difficult question. No doubt there will be a difficulty over this. They will use most of this land in that way.

41571. You say with all the power your father possessed he was not able to stop sub-letting?—No. I don't think you can help it. The only thing is to be very careful in making your holdings such that they must be easily sub-divisible. If you give a man a plot here (indicates on plan) close to his holding, of considerable size, as much as five you will have this turned into a separate holding, too.

41572. CHAIRMAN.—Probably there will be failures among these people as among any other class; but why should we imagine there will be all these difficulties when we are faced with the fact that in the case of those people whom the Congested Districts Board has already established on small holdings there have been comparatively few failures, if any; the great majority have succeeded and are succeeding very well?—You must remember that in the past there has been a great deal more care taken in the selection of the right man than there could be in the future.

41573. Why do you say that?—Because it is proposed to do it on such a large scale.

41574. Is not it probable that as there has been such an insufficiency of land, they have not been able to take all the available people?—That is probable.

41575. Again, has not there been a considerable prejudice against migration, a prejudice which is growing less?—It is said to be growing less.

41576. If the prejudice grows less, and there is a greater amount of land available, is not it quite conceivable that the Congested Districts Board will be able to accelerate the migration operations considerably without running the risk of removing undesirable people?—I think they will move unsuitable people. They cannot help doing that. It is only a question of the community.

41577. It is a very curious thing, as Mr. Doran explained to us, that the very people whom they have

moved up to now were to a very large extent unsuitable, and were not the people whom he would have liked to remove if he had any choice. He told us himself that a good many of the people he thought most suitable were not willing to move. They had a stake in their present holdings; they were doing fairly well, and for that reason they did not want to move. To get migrants he had to go very often to people who were not succeeding very well in their then existing conditions, yet those people when moved have done well?—You hear it said—I cannot say that I personally have very much knowledge of the matter—that the migrants, as a rule, are doing very badly.

41578. Mr. Doran tells us that they are doing very well, and he ought to know?—About Roscommon they are nearly all keeping it in grass, whether rightly or wrongly. I would say it is right.

41579. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Are these migrants who have come under the auspices of the Congested Districts Board or of the Estates Commissioners?—Some of both. You will see some tillage round the house, a sufficient quantity for their own use. Oats and potatoes are the only things I have seen generally. I don't wish to press that too far, because in the earlier stages it is more or less necessary that that should be so.

41580. You agree that even if tillage is to come, the first years are the difficult ones?—Yes. I quite admit that. I don't want to press too far what has happened.

41581. Mr. KILMER.—Have you ever thought of the question of conditional grants?—Yes. It comes a little later on.

41582. CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Doran gave us a few instances from the Port Royal estate. They are mentioned at page 314 of the Appendix to our First Report.* In the first case the rent of the old holding was £9 8s. 6d., and of the new holding £10 10s. 7d., and the anxiety was £7 12s. That was what he called a desirable man. The second man was also a man of that class. The rent is a woman, Catherine Pendergast. The rent of the old holding was £1 10s., and of the new holding on which she has been put £11 4s., and the anxiety is £7 7s. 6d. All three people are doing well. In another case where the old rent was £8 15s., the migrant was put on to a holding the rent of which was £14 3s. It shows that they can be put into much improved circumstances, and apparently succeed in them?—I don't know anything about the particular cases, but it may be that that woman was specially picked. It may be that she had some means outside her holding. They must have been very hard up for migrants if they took a woman who paid a rent of £1 10s., and had no other means.

41583. I saw myself the other day the case of a widow who had two or three small children, who had been migrated to an estate on the borders of Mayo, and apparently she was put into an old lodge of the demesne, and she was doing perfectly well. She got her neighbours to come and help her to till, and she was paying her anxiety all right?—She had nothing to start with.

CHAIRMAN.—Nothing at all except three young children.

41584. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—She had four head of cattle?—Again, where migration takes place, the new occupier should be supplied with ample capital. Up to the present this has not been done. He has generally been transplanted with little or no capital, and with very little knowledge of how to use his new farm. He will naturally use it as a small grass farm, with only sufficient tillage to provide for his family wants. A large portion of the Roscommon grass farms are unsuited for tillage. They are cold and sticky on limestone, but are good for grass. The only tillage crops that are grown to any extent in Roscommon are oats and potatoes. The grass lands are bad for both of these. I am dealing with grass lands generally there, because some of the grass lands are not bad, but I think on the whole that these Belanagare grass lands would not be at all suitable for tillage. Again, the difficulty of turf and water is almost insuperable. It has already caused enormous trouble.

41585. Do you mean there is no turf?—In the grass land district lying between Castlereagh, Roscommon, Strokestown, and Belanagare, there is practically no turf at all.

* See Appendix to First Report of the Commission [C.D. 1891, 1892], p. 214.

June 10, 1907.
The O'Connor
Box.

41587. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Are not these other tracts in Ireland where there is no turf, and yet they import either turf or coal and get on; in the neighbourhood of Limerick, don't they import coal?—Yes, but you have a very different class of farmer in the neighbourhood of Limerick. In Limerick they have almost entirely gone in for grazing, dairying. If that is what you are going to establish it is a different question.

41588. I merely refer to the absence of turf. There are parts of Ireland where you have no turf!—It might be a result of the absence of turf that you have not got small holdings but have got big dairy farms. I know Limerick a bit.

41589. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Take the County Wexford. It is a county of small farmers, and there is hardly any turf in it!—They are near the sea, and the coal would be fairly cheap.

41590. Take places further inland. Take Carlow and Kilkenny. There is no turf practically in either of these places; they import coal!—You are not dealing with men who have been accustomed to have turf at their doors.

41591. Yes; it has been cut out!—It is creating a difficulty.

Mr. SUMMERS.—This difficulty of turf is an old friend. We have heard of it two or three times. We recognise it.

41592. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Then there is the water difficulty?—Yes.

41593. Owing to the extreme dryness of the climate?—No, but on some of the gran lands there are no rivers or streams. Either the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board on some farms near Ballinabob had great expense in providing water.

Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—These things are not beyond the resources of civilisation. These same difficulties have been solved by the Estates Commissioners on estates that they have bought.

41594. Mr. SUMMERS.—They could readily sink artesian wells!—Yes; but it all adds to the difficulty of re-seeding at a price that would be at all fair to the owner.

41595. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—If under cattle, would not the water difficulty equally exist?—No; when you have a 500 or 600-acre farm under cattle, you have water here on the 200 or 300 acres, and you can water your cattle that way; but when you divide it up into twenty or thirty small holdings, as you have done in this case, you want have water for each plot. There was a lot of trouble even there, although it was a well watered farm.

41596. Does not that point to the conclusion that the well in the district should be reserved for all the occupiers?—You might have some trouble over it. There has been trouble over it already I know.

41597. Would not it be possible to use the bog of Allen and boat turf up to Roscommon?—There is no waterway.

41598. Is not there a canal into the Shannon?—Yes.

41599. Would there be no way of getting turf from

the Shannon to Roscommon?—No. It is too long to cart. You have got turf nearer than that.

41600. The railways would not be available for that?—It would work out at too extravagant a figure for carrying turf. Mr. Fitzgibbon sees the difficulty about the turf, and suggested pressing the turf as a means of overcoming the difficulty, but the pressing of turf does not so far seem to be a success. Near Limerick they got some machinery for pressing turf, and so on, but they never went further as far as I know. There is plenty of turf further west, but it is very expensive to cart.

41601. CHURCHMAN.—Surely these things are only difficulties which may have to be considered in fixing a price or the annuity of the tenant. They are not insuperable to farming the land?—Probably not.

41602. The Bishop's suggestion about having the well common to all the tenants would get over the water difficulty at once. There might be friction, but it would be possible to do it!—In a great many cases they could. I am putting these as difficulties. I don't say that they are insuperable, but they are things that have to be considered. There are a few places where I don't know how they will get over the water difficulty. About Ballinabob, it cost an awful lot already.

41603. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—These are grading tracts?—Yes.

41604. And the cattle had to get water?—You may have grazing farms where the water is all right, and when you divide it up into a lot of small holdings there will be great trouble in working it.

41605. The water is there; it is the difficulty of carriage?—Yes.

41606. CHURCHMAN.—I suppose, as far as the cattle are concerned, you could have a dam?—You could in some places. I know the difficulty that was caused in selling this land on account of the water. It was a very well watered farm. I know in Ballinabob the Board spent a lot of money, making huge levees cutting up in what otherwise would be an improper way to get over what would otherwise be the difficulty of water. Another objection to migration on a wholesale scale is, that the people of the district, even when their own holdings are not very small, greatly resent the introduction of strangers, and great friction will arise if they are brought in. The idea of giving everyone as much as they want is, of course absurd. In Roscommon the people naturally say that Roscommon men should get any land that is to be divided. My sympathies are with them. I think it is only natural that the people in the district should want what is going.

41607. Your sympathies may be with them, but if you give effect to them you would not get very far with your remedy for congestion?—Yes; but it is a difficulty you have to face. It is not only the very congested holders who object to strangers coming in, but also the sons of quite well-to-do people.

41608. But you will admit that if you were to encourage that feeling you would never be able to solve congestion?—Quite so; but I can quite understand it.

The Commission adjourned.

EIGHTY-THIRD PUBLIC SITTING.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11TH, 1907.

AT 11.0 O'CLOCK, A.M.,

AT 35, Dawson Street, Dublin.

Present:—The Right Hon. the Earl of DUDLEY, G.C.V.O. (in the Chair); The Right Hon. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL, G.C.I.; The Right Hon. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT, G.C.B.; Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL; WALTER KAVANAGH, Esq., D.L.; ANGUS SUTHERLAND, Esq.;

and WALTER CALLAN, Esq., Secretary.

The O'Connor Don further examined.

June 11, 1907.

The O'Connor Don.

41609. CHAIRMAN.—You dealt with migration yesterday?—Yes, and before I go on again I wish, both in justice to the Estates Commissioners and myself, to correct a wrong impression that seems to have been created outside by some of the evidence yesterday. It is stated in the Press that the Estates Commissioners allowed me to sell anonymous and congested holdings without providing grass land, and that I was retaining the grass land in order that I might extort what I considered a reasonable price. I may say, so far as the reasonable price is concerned, that I accepted the figure put on it by the Estates Commissioners, and the only reason why this extra grass land was not taken was that none of the tenants wanted it.

41610. That is the patch you were speaking of yesterday?—Yes, the 145 acres. It was not in any way retained in order to extort what I considered a reasonable price. It is true there was some bargain about price, and my father considered some of the prices put on the land too low.

41611. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I may say I was cognisant of the transactions between the Estates Commissioners and your father, and the impression conveyed in the Press is entirely misleading and entirely wrong?—I only wished to correct what I was supposed to have said yesterday. Then, again, with regard to the labor in England, I forgot to mention that the people who go to England have practically nothing to do in the winter months, and in comparing the figure that has to be allowed for, I do not know it is very accurate.

41612. CHAIRMAN.—I suppose there is nothing really to prevent them working in the winter in Ireland, and they can earn the higher wages in the summer in England?—Of course they can earn higher wages in the summer in Ireland also.

41613. What have you to say regarding the supply of grass lands?—There are at present thousands of acres of grass land available in Galway, Mayo, and Roscommon, if a fair price is paid. I know myself many cases where the land can be obtained, and no stronger proof of the supply being greater than the demand exists than that the Commissioners had to give back to me 125 acres which they had agreed to buy, and were getting at their own valuation. This land is still available.

41614. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—In view of what has passed, I presume you will not insist on the condition you have just stated?—I will, insist on it to the extent, that I say if you want the very best land for migration purposes, this fact has no bearing, but if you want grass land, taking the rough with the smooth—because you took the very best kind of land from me—then I say there is no reason for saying you can't get all you want.

41615. Is that the Carroneagh farm?—Yes.

41616. The reason it was given back was because it was impossible to do anything with it. It was a wet swamp which nobody would take?—That is what you stated yesterday; but I wanted the Commission to come down and see it. You have stated it is a wet swamp, and I would like to refer to the report of the

two inspectors of the Estates Commissioners who inspected the farm.

41617. At any rate, that was the ground on which the Estates Commissioners refused to take it?—I do not know what grounds they had for refusing to take it. All the reason they gave was that they could not get anybody to take it. But the report of their inspectors, which report I have here, is to the effect that the farm is very suitable for the enlargement of small holdings adjoining. That is their own report after two inspections.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It is not the Estates Commissioners' own report. It is the report of their inspectors.

41618. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—The argument you place here is that the Estates Commissioners have refused to take certain land which was available for them?—Yes. Quite so.

41619. Which shows that the supply of land offered to the Estates Commissioners is greater than their demand. Now I ask you whether you are aware of the fact that the Estates Commissioners approached 161 owners in County Galway, 115 of whom refused to allow the Estates Commissioners to have any estimate formed or furnished; in County Mayo they approached 115 owners, of whom ninety-four refused to allow any estimate to be formed, and took no notice of the Commissioners' letters; in County Roscommon they approached 115 owners, ninety of whom treated the Commissioners' inquiry in the same way; so that, all told, only 5,235 acres of land in Galway and Roscommon and 3,957 acres in Mayo have been reported upon by the Estates Commissioners. That, I submit to you, is a complete refutation of the statement that the supply of land offered to the Estates Commissioners is equal to their demand for it. Well, then, how explain the fact that what they had offered to them at their own price they did not take. I further say here is a body coming forward and openly saying, "We cannot pay for what we have bought already, some thirty-five millions worth of land," and then they send out notices admitting the impossibility of payment, and saying we want to buy more. Is there any other body in the world that would do that?

41620. Don't they pay from the time of purchase?—No, not for a long time afterwards.

41621. Don't they pay interest from the time they take possession of the land and allow you to collect the rents from the tenants?—The interest they pay is $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the purchase-money, whereas the charges and so on on the land are often four and five per cent., and as you have to go on paying these charges in full your margin is cut down to nothing, and you have perhaps got nothing to live on for two or three years.

41622. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Are these charges not paid before the negotiations are carried through?—Not at all. They may be mortgages and such like, and there are management charges.

41623. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—But you are relieved of management charges once the Estates Commissioners take over the property?—Yes, once they

June 11, 1907.

The O'Connor
Don.

take it over, but as a rule what happens, as you are probably aware, is that they take it over within a month or so of the day they are ready to pay in the purchase money. Perhaps they do not take it over until they are just ready to pay the purchase money. I know in my own experience you have to pay a collector, because it is over so much more troublesome to collect. You do not get paid in full, and the losses in our case were about two years' income.

41628. But when you have not received the purchase money you are getting interest?—You have not received the purchase money and you are getting interest in small quantities, and if you are an owner with mortgages and charges you are in the greatest difficulties.

41629. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is that owing to the small amounts paid, or the low rates?—You get low rates, and you have to collect it as best you can. Of course, eviction proceedings and such like are out of the question, and in the case of sales under section 5 till the matter is finally closed you are out of a very large portion of your income. Of course if you are a man of means and not living on a mere margin it is fairly all right. But I say here is a body coming forward and saying we have got some thirty-five millions worth of land promised to us. We cannot pay for it, and we think it unreasonable that people should not offer us more. I say let them first pay for what they have, and there is a good deal of grass land in the thirty-five millions worth. The real difficulty is a financial one.

41627. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—If it be reasonable for the owners to object to the financial ground, and if the owners consider that the delay in the distribution of the purchase money is a sufficient reason why they should not come forward with offers of land, do you not consider that the Irish taxpayer has a much greater reason for being chary about future purchases?—Well, I think the framers of the Act are framed in a way that is decidedly disadvantageous.

41628. You are a taxpayer yourself?—I am.

41629. And there should be representation to correspond with taxation?—If you can have it.

41630. Is it not a fact that we have it now from the Government, according to a statement in Parliament, that the expenses of the Estate of Land Stock and the banking losses in connection with that Estate all fall on the Irish taxpayer?—Quite so, and there is a quite unnecessary loss of about 2½ per cent.

41631. You consider it an unnecessary loss?—Yes, when you take the price of Conesels and the price of Land Stock. Take Conesels at, say, 85, then Land Stock ought to stand at 85½.

41632. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—You think Land Stock ought to be 85½?—Yes, if Conesels are 85.

41633. Why are they almost equal?—Because of the way the matter is done. If the money was procured in a way that it would not be called Land Stock it would stand near the figure I suggest. It is really England that gets the advantage of this, and the Irish taxpayer has to meet this loss of 2½ per cent. owing to the way it is dealt out. If it was raised as Conesels you could get it at Conesels' price, that is to say for every 2½ per cent you would pay 85, whereas they are now 85 at 85.

41634. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—In the main there are two sources of loss?—Yes, they come out of the Irish funds, and mean 5 per cent.

41635. There is the discount and the bank loss?—Yes.

41636. Both of these losses ultimately fall upon the Irish taxpayer?—Quite so, or come out of the Irish Development Fund.

41637. Either out of the Irish Development Grant, or grants-in-aid?—Yes.

41638. And therefore in the end the loss on the Estate of Land Stock comes on the Irish taxpayer?—Entirely.

41639. Then don't you think, as an Irish taxpayer, that whether bargains are good or bad hereafterward the Irish taxpayer ought to have a voice in all bargains?—I think that would be very difficult to work out, and you would get very few bargains if you had such a system in operation.

41640. I put it to you that the Irish taxpayer is being taxed in every single instance in which land is bought?—I would try and do away with the taxation,

and that would be the simpler way. There are difficulties, but I think it could be done.

41641. I put it to you disjunctively: either the loss to the taxpayer should be done away with, or the taxpayer given a voice in the incurring of the loss?—I think if you give the taxpayer a voice you will kill the whole scheme.

41642. I have no doubt, but is there any way out of it. Whether the land is sold to the tenants by the landlord cheaply or dearly under the existing arrangements the Irish taxpayer must lose?—Yes.

41643. There is no way out of that?—No.

41644. So it comes to this: if representation should go with taxation either the loss has to be got rid of or the taxpayer has to be consulted?—Well, of course, you have representation and representation, and in a sense you have representation now. I think if you are to elect a body throughout the country to deal with this matter you would kill sales at once, and I think one must look at the matter from a practical point of view. If you have a debating place where everyone expressed his views on every proposed sale, why no sale would ever go through.

41645. I quite admit that, but if it be reasonable for owners to say that the distribution of the purchase money being so delayed justifies their being chary about offering their land, is it not equally reasonable that the Irish taxpayer should come forward and say until this question of the loss incurred in the Estate of Land Stock is satisfactorily solved there should be no purchase and no sales?—You might say that, but I don't if the majority of taxpayers would express such a view. In numbers, if you ask everybody that paid taxes, possibly so, but if you have one vote, or so many votes for every million of taxes paid, I think you will find the taxpayer will not object.

41646. Your view is that the Irish taxpayer ought not to bear this loss?—That is my view, undoubtedly, and I think there is a waste of eight per cent., roughly, on the present system which could be avoided.

41647. But the loss is much more, the discount alone is more than that?—I am taking the difference between Conesels and Land Stock.

41648. In this matter we are not at all dealing with losses in connection with nonpayment of annuities?—No, not at all.

41649. CHAIRMAN.—What are your views on migration?—No doubt migration and the enlargement of holdings to a reasonable extent can be carried out, and will help to relieve congestion; but more money must be spent over it, and in starting the new colonies, than has been yet done. To my mind, one of the most useful ways of helping small tenants in a district where there is grass land near would be for the Congested Districts Board to buy the grass land and let the grazing to the tenants at low rates. The land is grazed much more economically in this way than if it is cut up into small plots. Even if migration on a very large scale is possible, plenty of grass lands will still be available, if a fair price is given, and no great delays occur in carrying out a contract.

41650. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—To what extent do you think the Congested Districts Board could follow that plan of grazing?—I think they could follow it considerably in the districts where there are small holdings around the grass lands. I do not think that is at all unpopular.

41651. In the part of Roscommon with which you are familiar, for instance, the 40,000 acres that you mentioned yesterday, do you think the Board could adopt that plan in respect of those 40,000 acres?—Oh, no. I say that the plan could be adopted a good deal, and is being adopted.

41652. Could it be adopted very largely, for instance, if the Congested Districts Board bought, say, 50,000 acres? Could they graze that without a loss? Could they get from the grazing rents the percentage of 2½ per cent, which they have to pay on the purchase price they had to give?—I should have thought they could do as much again. Mr. Doran's figures, on page 50, show that they make a large amount.*

41653. That is to say on the quantity of land they deal with, and that is limited?—£25,000 a year is very substantial.

41654. My point is in regard to where the Board buy an area of 50,000 acres, could they be assured they would not lose on it in the interval between purchase and distribution?—I think they could do that, but I do not think they could permanently

* See Appendix to First Report of the Commission [C.O. 3167, 1906], p. 50.

graze the whole 50,000 acres. Of course I do not know what they paid for that land or how many acres are in it, but £25,000 a year must represent something between 15,000 and 20,000 acres.

41553. I remember the reference to that, but I think they stocked their own farms. The Congested Districts Board do not merely take in cattle, but graze and stock their own farms?—I know, but there is considerable anxiety to get this grazing because the Board can give it at considerably less than is used to be given. They charge about one-third less, and I know it is a popular system. I am quite sure the tenants round some of these grass lands would much prefer to get the grazing than to have a County Mayo man brought in if they had that alternative.

41554. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—It is a great advantage for men on small agricultural holdings to have facilities for grazing their stock, even at a distance?—Yes, and at a low rate, too. I am quite aware that part of this proposal may be highly disapproved of by some landowners who say the Congested Districts Board have cut down the grazing rate till over the place.

41555. Sir Anthony MacDonnell.—They would not object if their land was bought?—Oh, no, but they object very much to the rate for grazing. Of course, looking at the matter from the point of view of the good of the country they must object.

41556. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Could they permanently graze smaller areas?—Yes.

41557. Don't you think that would be a great advantage to the people around?—Yes, I think it would be a great advantage.

41558. Such grazing might enter into a scheme of migration?—Yes. You might give a man a patch of tillage on his small holding with the right to graze so many head of cattle at a certain price. The rate would be low on account of the adjoining land being available for cutting up. I fancy there would be a good deal unsuitable for cutting up, and if there is any scheme of purchase that is justice to the owner will have to be bought because you cannot take field A and leave field B. You will have to take the good and the bad.

41559. How many miles away would people take grazing rather than migrate?—Well, I know at present cases where they take grazing four or five miles away, but I think that is rather too far.

41560. Do you think so?—Yes. I should say two or three miles would be sufficient.

41561. I should have thought they would have gone further?—Yes, but I am talking of permanent settlements, and not temporary.

41562. I also mean a permanent settlement?—I think you could not go beyond three or four miles. I think it would be unreasonable to ask them to go further, and there would be difficulties with the adjoining owners if they had to go very far. They would say we must have this grazing, and you must come in here.

41563. They might say the same in the case of migration?—I think they would.

41564. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You think Mr. Kavanagh's suggestion a practical one?—I think it is to a limited extent, but I do not think it will solve the whole question.

41565. No, it would be one of the expedients?—Yes.

41566. Would you consider that small occupiers could with advantage graze their stock four or six miles away?—I put it at three or four, because I think when you run to six you are met with difficulties. There would be a feeling among the people where the grazing was against bringing in what they would call strangers. I happen to know of instances where the people had to go from eight to ten miles where there was that difficulty. I think that in the case of a man who had only one or two miles he would not be considered as such. Then there is the driving of cattle and attending them at a great length and I think that would create difficulties.

41567. I think we have it from Mr. Doran's statement that for a time, at all events, that system was being carried out at a greater distance than you contemplated?—Quite so; and I say temporarily you may do it at a greater distance, but permanently I doubt it.

41568. I do not mean the joint management of grazing lands by a community, but the providing of facilities for grazing stock at a distance?—Yes.

41569. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Are you aware that in grazing sheep a man will go into another county and take grazing permanently year after year?—I dare say.

41570. Mr. STRANAHAN.—Do you consider that the Congested Districts Board should retain these grazing lands and let them out year by year?—Let them to the tenants each year at low rates, or sell them?—I would say to let them.

41571. The Congested Districts Board would therefore require to be a continuing body for the purpose of administering that?—Yes. I assume the Congested Districts Board is likely to be a continuing body for a great many years yet, or if not, then the Estates Commissioners, or whatever body you have dealing with this. There is no immediate prospect of discontinuing either of those Boards.

41572. It would be an entirely new function for them?—So; they are doing this at present on a large scale.

41573. But it is only being done for a time?—That may be.

41574. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—It is being done now for a time. Mr. Doran's idea was that this suggestion is itself familiarised small occupants with lands to which they might afterwards migrate?—Yes.

41575. It was not in contemplation that the land might be held by communities?—Of course, there would be no difficulty in providing the purchase annuity out of the rates charged.

You could be gradually paying off capital, and instead of the 4½ it would fall to 3½. That is a mere paper transaction, and there would be no loss in that way. I now wish to deal with prices, and I say it is clear, from Mr. Doran's figures,* that up to the present the Congested Districts Board have made remarkably good bargains. As long as they have the lands in hand they receive £25,000 a year in grazing receipts for land valued at £16,500 a year, for which they pay the Land Commission much less than they receive. They do this even though they let the grazing at 20 per cent. less than the usual price, and, as regards lands which they farm themselves, owing to the magnitude of their operations, they cannot do it with the same care as regards buying stock at the ordinary market.

Their own figures prove conclusively that the land is worth more than they are giving for it.

41576. Sir Anthony MacDonnell.—You say that the Congested Districts Board make a very good thing out of the grazing?—Yes.

41577. And the Board charge 20 per cent. less than the ordinary grazing rate?—Yes.

41578. Now, if the Congested Districts Board make a very good thing out of the grazing, and let their grazing 20 per cent. less than the ordinary grazing rate, isn't it the inference that the ordinary grazing rate is at least 20 per cent. too high?—No. The inference is that they make a good thing because they bought the land 20 per cent. too cheap.

41579. Allow me to point out that they bought land at about 25 years' purchase of the Poor Law valuation of £16,500, and the Poor Law valuation is about the same as second term rents?—Yes, but you must remember that you have also owners' and occupiers' interests to deal with, which makes a difference.

41580. We have heard a good deal about that, but I ask you to think over this point, because I think it is a difficult one for you to explain. On your own admission, you show that the landlords are charging 20 per cent. too high for grazing lands, the argument being that at the price at which the Board bought, which is based on the Poor Law valuation (and the Poor Law valuation in Roscommon is about equal to second term rents), the Board are making a good thing out of it?—And the Poor Law valuation in Roscommon is particularly being admitted, in one or more Government statements, to be about 5s. in the £ lower than it ought to be. It has been stated by eminent valuers that if there was a re-valuation the Poor Law Valuation in Roscommon would be raised on the average 5s. in the £1.

41581. Isn't it a fact that your father sold land at a basis of 25 years' purchase under the Poor Law valuation, and accepted that as a fair rent?—It was I who sold in fact. But if you saw the correspondence I do not think you would say it was accepted as a fair rent. It was accepted under the quasi compulsion that Lord

June 22, 1907.

The O'Connor
Don.

* See Appendix to First Report of the Commission (Vol. 1905, 1906), p. 54.

June 27, 1907.
The O'Connor
Box.

Dudley has spoken about. Once you get into negotiations you cannot go back.

41584. Mr. KAVANAGH.—When you speak of landlords charging so much for this land is it not as a matter of fact put up to auction and the highest bidder gets it?—It sometimes is, but, as a rule, before the Congested Districts Board came down there was a difficulty in refusing grazing. You had grating more than you could take at the rates charged, and I do not see how it is fair to argue that because you are charging prices that everybody is willing to give, and prices that obviously pay them to give, that it can be said those prices are excessive because a certain body has been able to buy some land at a fixed price, and can make a profit even while charging lower rates on that price. Surely the only true commission to arrive at is that the price paid by the Board is a low one because they can let the grating at less than the ordinary rates. To my mind it is absurd to say that the rate for a particular article is too high when you have hundreds ready to come in and give a particular price for it.

41585. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I do not see how that agrees with your statement. You say the Board receives £25,000 a year for land valued at £15,000. What valuation do you adhere to?—To Poor Law valuation.

41586. The Board receives £25,000 a year for land which is valued in the Poor Law valuation at £15,000?—Yes.

41587. Do you think that is an excessive margin?—In what way an excessive margin?

41588. The Board must have interest on the money which they expended on the purchase of the land?—Yes, interest on the purchase money will come to even less than the Poor Law valuation.

41589. They pay the Land Commission much less than they receive?—Yes, and much less than the Poor Law valuation, I fancy.

41590. Have you the figures?—I have not. Mr. Doreen did not give any figures. He stated they paid less.

41591. Do you contend that the difference between what they receive and what they pay would be anything like the difference between £25,000 and £15,000?—I should have thought it would be greater, but I cannot tell you; Mr. Doreen could give the figures.

41592. It would be important to have the figures?—It would, and I really quoted this for an argument later on. But taking it that the experts to whom Sir Anthony has alluded say the land is worth, as tillage or cut up, no much as it is worth as grazing—they say more, but I am satisfied to take it equal value. I say they buy at this price, and they are able to make one and a half the Poor Law valuation out of it as grazing, consequently if it is worth as much cut up the fair annuality would be at least one and a half the Poor Law valuation. I do not see any way out of it.

41593. Have you made deductions for management in that statement?—Well, I put the bonus against that, the cost of selling, and so on, because once you have sold to the tenants there is no question of management.

41594. I think you will find that the bonus has been already calculated in the advantage which the Congested Districts Board receive. You say they receive £25,000 a year for land valued at £15,000?—There is no bonus in that. That is what they receive as grazing rents, and I say, assuming that the rents will come to as much as that if cut up into holdings the holdings' rent of the land would be £25,000 a year.

41595. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I beg your pardon for interrupting you, but I do not think so. That £25,000 a year includes the profits of stock bought and sold?—I am quite prepared to admit that, and it is a great help in my argument, because it cannot then be said, so far as stock is concerned, that the price charged is too high. It shows you are using this land yourselves and making profits on stock bought and sold, and that you can make this clear profit. The argument of all the experts who are in favour of these divided holdings is that the land will give even more profit if cut up. But I say, to take it at the same figure of £25,000 a year, the land will produce in annuities £25,000 a year, and that would be successively above what the landlords have suggested.

41596. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—If the outgoings are £15,000, and the income £25,000, you have

only the balance between the two for all manner of profits on the transaction. If the land is divided among various holders, do you think that is an assurance profit to enable families to live?—No, because the families are living then on cut-up holdings. In calculating the profits on cut-up holdings I do not altogether agree with some of the experts, who say that the actual profits out of the holding, allowing a man for his labour and everything, will be more than the grazing rents.

41597. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—I did not understand them to say that at all. What I understood them to say was that the income produced from agriculture would be more valuable than if produced from grazing. But from the produce of agriculture you have to deduct the costs of labour, which are infinitely greater than the costs of grazing?—And therefore you conclude that is the more economic way of using the land. It is what I was contending yesterday, but I do not think you agreed with me.

41598. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The point I wish you to elucidate is, supposing the grazing receipts from land amount to £25,000 a year, is it not too much to pay out £15,500 in rent?—I do not think so, because the grazing income means practically no expense. The way the Congested Districts Board let grazing their only expenses are the grazing rent collector and a few herds.

41599. That is paying out two-thirds of the receipts in rent?—But you must remember Mr. Doreen says they make a profit of £25,000.

41600. Mr. BERNARDINI.—Do the Congested Districts Board let the grazing on the ordinary eleven months' system?—No; it is so much a bullock's green, and that is about £3.

41601. How does that compare with the auction rate?—It would be about 30 per cent. lower. It has reduced the grazing rents throughout the district, and Sir Anthony consequently argues that the grazing rents have been too high, but I say no.

41602. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—My argument is, where you have such a profit derived by the Congested Districts Board at low rates a further there must be larger profits derived by the landlords?—You are grazing rents bringing you in so much. A great many people say, instead of letting the grazing I will graze the land myself, and they say they can make bigger profits by doing so. I say the land is worth these bigger profits. The men without capital take in cattle, and the men with capital graze it themselves, and I do not suppose there is very much difference in the profits, because if there was you would at once have the people all doing the grazing themselves instead of letting it out.

41603. The reason I asked the question was we came yesterday to the point that the Estates Commissioners and the landlords could not come to terms. The landlords say they are not offered a sufficient price, and then I take advantage of this statement of yours to point out that the Congested Districts Board while letting the grazing at 30 per cent. less than the landlords generally in the district charge, they are able, according to you, to make a very good thing out of it, and that has furnished to my mind an explanation why the Estates Commissioners and the landlords cannot come together?—They let the grazing at 30 per cent. less, and taking into consideration the price they paid, they can well make a profit. The landlord who can make a large profit by putting his own stock on his land naturally says, "I want such a price as will fairly recoup me my actual income," which was so much. I say this proves that the price that they bought at is really below the value, because the land, unless there are disturbances, will yield a good deal more than the Congested Districts Board are getting out of it. But even if it only yielded the same it could stand a larger capital sum as the purchase price. I do not see any way out of that argument.

41604. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Have you any figures to show what the landlords charged for this land valued at £25,000 and out of which the Congested Districts Board make £25,000 a year?—I have not. That will have to come from the Estates Commissioners. I have no way of collecting that information, because it is only from Mr. Doreen's evidence that I get these figures, and he did not mention the price; but I think I could easily assume that the annuity did not amount to £15,500 a year.

41705. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I would not like you to assume that too readily for this reason, that the Congested Districts Board have been in the habit of acknowledging the occupation interest as well as the owner's interest in such lands.—Even so, it would require big purchase money.

41706. CHAIRMAN.—Your next point—I wish to say as to the possibility of a fall in value there is an equal chance of a rise. The importation of Canadian cattle would cut down the price of young stock, and so injure the small man; but it would rather help the grazer with good land, as he could get his stock so much cheaper, and thereby the value of the grass land would increase. There are possibilities both ways, and it is not fair to discount the price for one and not raise it for the other.

41707. I suppose if they could get their stock cheaper the price of the beast when fattened would be lowered.—Not at all proportionately lower.

41708. But the price would be lower.—Possibly, but still there would be more profit on it, and it would make the land of the larger man more valuable, though it might not be so in the case of the poorer man. There may be protection, but I do not think there is much likelihood of that, but if you are going to take in political possibilities you must take in both sides. Then again, at present there is no difficulty (when so borrowing) in getting grazer tenants, and many graziers have been grazing the same lands for years. I may say as to the grazer rents and prices generally that when you come to ask a landlord who for the past twenty years has been getting £200 a year for his land on the eleven months' system to sell, he naturally says—and, I think, fairly says—I must get such a price as will give me that income. The Estates Commissioners as a rule won't give him that. I quite admit if you have got an occasional grazing tenant for a short time at a high rent it would not be fair to take that into consideration, but in Roscommon, where the bulk of the grass land is let on the eleven months' system, you have the same man year after year, although nominally for eleven months; in practice the man is a permanent tenant. They have been paying these grazing rents and making a good thing out of it.

41709. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Would you be willing to give the eleven months' tenants the privileges of an established tenant?—They are made eleven months' tenants, no doubt, to avoid that and it would add greatly to the difficulty of relieving congestion if you were to give them such privileges.

41710. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Under the eleven months' system the land is nominally in the hands of the owner for the last month.—Yes but it is purely nominally. As a matter of fact, the eleven months' man stays on.

41711. And his cattle can remain on.—Yes.

41712. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Your argument is based upon the permanence of the eleven months' system?—No, not exactly. My argument is that when you can get these rents from a man who knows he can be turned out at a moment's notice, and that man can year after year pay a good price for the land, it shows that the land is worth it. It is the strongest evidence you can have of that, and you find at the same time a great many of these men flourishing.

41713. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What could they do otherwise?—What will they do now if the land is taken from them.

41714. Is not this grazing system a monopoly?—No, because a lot of these men did not begin as graziers, but grew into it.

41715. Quite so, but that does not alter it. You are dealing with a monopoly. There are several holders for it, and as the owner gets the highest price for his monopoly?—Not exactly. But even if that were a fact, these graziers are well-to-do men, and have succeeded very well. They are not poor men at all, and they are willing to continue the system and prosper under it.

41716. Still they are dealing with a monopoly?—Yes, but they are able to make a good living out of it. You might as well say the same about any property in the world. The fact that these men are able to earn a good livelihood and to prosper is a strong argument that they are not paying too much for the land.

41717. We have two classes of tenants. There is the class who have had a provision of their rents by statutory process, and on the whole those rents have been cut down. In the other class the tenants are grazing on the eleven months' system, and in that case you are dealing with rents which have been forced up and are rack rents?—No; I do not think so. I think you will find in Roscommon the grazer has been paying at the same rate all through, and there has been no attempt to raise it.

41718. Isn't there an essential difference between a statutory rent and a rack rent?—Quite.

41719. You must make an allowance for that?—I am not suggesting you should not, but in the case of statutory rents you have an occupation interest which I am prepared to deal with. That is said to be difficult to explain, but I do not see much difficulty about it. In the case of the statutory rent it may very well be said that it has been fixed by a body appointed by statute which came down there for that purpose, but that is not a true test of the value. But where you have people prospering and flourishing for years paying what are known as rack rents, you cannot say then that the land is not worth the amount of rent paid for it. What would be said in England suppose a landlord were getting £200 a year year after year for a farm, and it was and the land was a monopoly, and therefore it must be bought cheaper on that account? It would be said that is the value of the land. It is the same in Ireland where you have an open market.

41720. That has been interfered with, as you know, in Ireland for reasons of public policy?—Quite so. The statute was passed to protect the small tenants, because where you had a big number of them washing land the rents might be forced up, but in the case of the graziers they are a comparatively small number, and they are not well able to take care of themselves. They are good, substantial men, most of them, and I think they should be left to make their own bargains in the same way as in any other country in the world.

41721. I am content with pointing out the fact that it appears to me your argument was lacking, because it did not take into account the fact that in one case you have the price of rents fixed by statute and in the other you have not that?—Quite so, and I say in the case of the rents fixed by statute you may have an improper rent fixed, but in the rents agreed upon in open market you have a true price.

41722. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—It is a case of the ordinary law of market price—selling in the open market?—Yes the ordinary law of what the market will bring in the open market. People find they can afford to buy at this price and make a good profit, and that is a true test of the value.

41723. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—How does that agree with what we know is the case in England that it is exceedingly difficult for the owners of land to let it in such a way as to get large sums for it?—I think you will find that in England, where there are good grass lands, there is not that difficulty; it is where there is tillage.

41724. CHAIRMAN.—It all depends on the class of the land?—Yes.

41725. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I have been told by the owners of large properties in England that the outgoings on English estates are so heavy as to almost take away the rents they receive for them?—Well, I have had a brother in an English estate office, and he does not bear that out. I say if you have good grass land in England you can get a good price for it.

41726. Does grass land in England fetch as good a price as grass land in Roscommon?—Some of it, but I do not think the most of the grass land I have seen there is good. We have a very moist climate, which makes the grass good.

41727. They have the advantage of proximity to market, and we have the advantage of climate?—Yes.

41728. My information is that you can get very good land in Yorkshire for ten shillings an acre?—I do not know anything about that, but I have seen very bad land in Hampshire let at eighteen shillings an acre which the Land Commission would value at five shillings an acre in Ireland.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—My opinion is altogether subject to the correction of our Chairman, who has first-hand information on that point.

June 15, 1897.
The O'Donnell
Don.

June 11, 1902.
The O'Connell
Sons.

41730. **SIR ANTHONY MACDONAGH.**—What income would you expect from a thousand acres of land if let on the eleven months' system, as compared with what it would bring if let to yearly tenants. Would the rent be higher or lower or the same?—Are you assuming a fire.

41731. **No.** I am not assuming a fire. There are three classes of tenants—the tenant on the eleven months' system, the future tenant, and the present tenant. How would the future tenant compare with the eleven months' tenant as regards income to the landlord?—I should say more.

41732. **More for the eleven months?—Certainly.** If you were to put it up for auction you would get more. I may say that in regard to some of the land I sold to the Estates Commissioners I was offered a larger price for it than down that the Estates Commissioners gave. Of course, I could not sell a piece in that way, but there was land adjoining sold at very much the same price, which has since changed hands. The purchaser has given £1,800 or £1,900 for the interest over and above, and he is liable for the annuities just the same. That shows the market value of the land.

41733. **MR. KATACHAN.**—The eleven months' rent is not a net rent. There are the fences, and so on, to be maintained?—Yes. I would like to say a word about the costs on the bonus and the loss during the interval of sale. The bonus has been alluded to as going entirely to the landlord. But it must be remembered that in sales to the Land Commission the landlord, quite out of the ordinary practice, pays all the costs. In the ordinary sales between two persons out of court it is the purchaser who pays all the costs.

41734. **Except in proxy title?—In nine cases out of ten you will find there is a clause in the purchase agreement providing that the purchaser will bear all costs or a fixed sum for the vendor's costs.** That is the usual thing, but in the case of sales to the Land Commission it is different, but then the landlord has the bonus. What I say is that the bonus is a liberal allowance for cost and loss during sale; that is the way I treat it. I know people who have said that is absurd, as the costs could not come to anything like that, and I think Sir Anthony MacDonagh thinks it is a great deal too much.

41735. **SIR ANTHONY MACDONAGH.**—I put it at five per cent. Well, I put it at ten per cent, and I may say I have sold two properties during the last few years—one to the Estates Commissioners under Section 6, and one to the tenants. I have made out a calculation of the costs and loss during sale, and in the smaller case they came to a little over twelve per cent.

41736. **MR. KATACHAN.**—Do you include in that compensation for the agent?—In this particular case there was no compensation to the agent. He was paid a very small sum. I do not like to give the actual figures, and have them appear in the Blue Book, but I can hand them in for the information of the Commission.

41737. **MR. SUTHERLAND.**—Is it not an extraordinary thing that in the transference of property £32 must be paid out of every £100 for clerical work and such like?—No; I say the landlord when selling has to pay certain sums. He won't get his cash through if he does not. He must give the bailiff something. If he does not the bailiff won't be very favourable when going round with the Land Commission inspectors.

41738. **Isn't that brokerage in the ordinary sense that is paid in similar cases?—I think so; I am not justifying it, but I say it is a necessity. There are others who must be provided for. There is the solicitor, and that will mean from 14 to 2 per cent.**

41739. **CHAIRMAN.**—That is a fixed charge?—No; it is whatever bargain you make.

41740. **I thought under recent sales it was fixed at 14 per cent?—It is working out now at 14.**

41741. **Is it not 14 for the solicitor and 14 for the agent?—I would not give the agent so much. In my particular case the agent only got 14, and although doing it on the cheap, so to speak, the costs have run up to the figures I have stated. There are surveyor's fees. Another item of costs which I have not heard mentioned yet, and which on many estates is very large and on almost every estate is a fair amount, is the costs of various people having charges**

against the estate. That is never included in the 14. There is the head rent, which has to be cleared. I am at present dealing with a head rent, the capital sum of which is £250, and I would be perfectly willing to hand over a cheque for £50 for the costs of that. There are all these charges, and it is not merely the landlord's own charges, but of everyone having a claim on the estate. All these have to be paid. I am not saying whether it is right or wrong, but there they are, and the owner has to provide for them. I have worked out the figures in the two particular cases coming under my own knowledge—one a sale direct and the other under Section 6. In one case they came to a 14 per cent 12, and in the other it is practically 11 per cent.

41742. **SIR ANTHONY MACDONAGH.**—Will you let me have a copy of your calculations?—Certainly; I have not the least objection, but I do not wish all the particulars to appear in the Blue Book.

41743. **And can I have them tested by the Estates Commissioners?—Certainly.**

41744. **I do not mean in the slightest to cast any doubts on their authenticity, but merely to have them tested as regards their practice?—Certainly.** I am quite willing to show the books if desired. I have put down everything here in round figures, and I have checked them over. There is only one slight mistake in regard to the bailiff, and that reduces it to twelve instead of thirteen. But I wish to be quite candid; the largest item is the loss of rent during the interval, and the way I have calculated it in the larger case is, I have taken the average receipts for the five years prior to the sale, and the receipts during the two and a half years the sale was going through.

41745. **Mrs. Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.**—And while you were receiving the 14 per cent?—Or was supposed to be receiving it. I have worked that out.

41746. **CHAIRMAN.**—What do you mean by supposed to receive it. Do you mean you did not actually receive it?—No.

41747. **Would the arrears be added on to the purchase money?—I am afraid not.**

41748. **Do you mean to say that you are entitled to receive 14 per cent, but you did not actually get it?—Yes.** That is the usual course. You never get the 14 on a sale under section 6. The practice adopted is, you negotiate with the tenants under section 6, and see the price they will give. Then you get them to sign undertakings to purchase from the Estates Commissioners at this price, or probably interview the Estates Commissioners, and get their view as to whether they will sanction it, and they may do so only provisionally. Then you have to go round the tenants, and get all the agreements signed, which takes time.

41749. **And won't the 14 per cent. run from the time they sign the agreement to purchase up to the time the property is actually vested in them?—Well, no; it is up to the date of the contract with the Estates Commissioners. I am not blaming the Estates Commissioners for this.**

41750. **SIR ANTHONY MACDONAGH.**—It is entirely in your own interest you are doing it. You have gone to the tenants and got them to sign agreements under section 6. You are under no obligation to do anything of the sort. You might have gone to the Estates Commissioners and said, will you give me £5,000 on my property, and they might have agreed, or offered £4,500, but your arrangement was for the purpose, and I do not suggest it was improper, of raising the money to the higher price which you thought you would not have a chance of getting from the Estates Commissioners?—No; I would not agree with you there. What happened in one particular case was, my father got the tenants to purchase one-third of the property direct. They said we will buy from you provided you can get undertakings signed; in fact they insisted on undertakings being signed in nearly every case, and, I think, rightly, because they say, under the section, unless you are able to do so there is a loss.

41751. **You do for them in anticipation what they do themselves?—In practice it is necessary to do it, because you will be put off with one thing and another if you don't do it.**

41752. **One of the objects was the idea that prevailed among landlords, that agreements made under those circumstances would be agreements within the zone, and the idea was to bring the operation of the**

some system to bear on the operations under section 5, and now it has been shown that the same system is never applied to section 6, and we never understood it did!—I can assure you, in my case at any rate, there was no such reason.

41763. I did not impute anything of the sort!—Because they were mostly non-judicial tenants.

41764. I do not say but that you are perfectly right in doing it, but the object of it is to get higher prices, and all blame to you!—No; I think you owe a consideration, because I think you will find that the usual practice of the Commissioners is to say you must put these things quite apart from whether the land is sold or not. They create a difficulty if you don't, and, rightly or wrongly, you have to do what they say.

41765. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—You said the 3½ per cent. is not paid!—I will tell you the process, if I may, because some of the Commissioners may not be aware of the practice in selling property. You get the agreements signed by the tenants, and lodge your application, and so on. During the interval of time the tenant is supposed to pay you 3½ per cent., but, in many cases, he does not. You have no way of compelling him to pay, and you are bound to have a loss.

41766. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—But that is rent, and you could add it on to the purchase price; you can add on any number of years' rent!—Excuse me, but once these agreements are signed, you cannot add one penny.

41767. But that is not under section 6!—I may say there was a half-year's rent due in my case, on the 1st of May, last year, and we applied to the Estates Commissioners for leave to add that to the purchase money, and as the tenants were anxious that this should be done you would expect that it would be done, but leave was refused, and we had to collect the arrears, but I may say the Estates Commissioners gave us every facility for collecting them.

41768. Have you added on anything on account of arrears previously?—No.

41769. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Why should there be any special default in this 3½ per cent.!—I do not know if you are aware of the fact that Irish tenants do not pay on the day the money is due. They may pay the full rent within a year, but they do not pay on the day the money is due, and then you have the hammer coming down on a particular day, and everything is gone that is not collected on that day. You cannot collect a penny afterwards.

41770. Might you not have an arrangement with the tenants by which they would pay the 3½ per cent. before the hammer comes down!—If they did, but it does not pay you to wait. You prefer to lose the money rather than waiting, because it is a case of waiting indefinitely. Then, again, there is another point. Say, on the 1st of May, the 3½ per cent. is due; the tenants in the West of Ireland generally pay in November only, and it is very difficult to get them to pay on the 1st of May, but if the hammer comes down on the 1st of November you must necessarily lose all between the 1st of May and the 1st of November. You can never get your sale to work out so that the agreement will come on the sale day. The hammer will not come down on the sale day, nor will the money be paid up to the sale day.

41771. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Can you not add on the hanging gale to the purchase price!—That would be equal to increasing the years' purchase. Suppose I said I will sell at twenty-one and add on a year's rent!—

41772. You make your bargain with the tenants for a certain price, and you are entitled to add on many years' rent as you may see fit. At first it was thought that you could only add on one year, but now you can add as much arrears as you may see fit. In pursuance of that rule, you can add on the hanging gale. It is loss of income, and I am only dealing with the fact. During the five years previous to the sale, I got some hundreds from the property, and while the sale was going through I got as much less receipts. I put that difference down as a loss.

41773. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—It would be a temporary loss!—No, a permanent loss, because you never recover it.

41774. But can't you recover it if you can add it to the hanging gale!—No. Sir Arthur admits that the

broken period is not added, and I must join issue with you on that point. You make your bargain at the start, and I do not see how you can add on to it afterwards.

41775. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—But you could if you could foresee that!—But that is only saying to the tenants you must give twenty-one, and add another year, which will be twenty-two. When you are making the bargain the tenant will say I will give you twenty-one and no more.

41776. I would not consider it desirable to add to the number of years' purchase, but it is not possible to make an arrangement by which the 3½ per cent. would be paid!—I do not think it would work out in practice. Theoretically it might be done, and, in some cases, is done, but when you have the hammer coming down it would not work. I am not blaming the Commissioners for letting it drop on any particular day, because in my case they did everything they could to help us.

41777. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—We have had Mr. Doonan's evidence on an extensive scale, and I have no recollection that he put before us any such loss as you describe!—Because you must remember that they will pay the Congested Districts Board where they will not pay us. You can never get them to come in on the day. And then there is the broken period, and by no possibility, if it occurs, can you get it.

41778. But no landlord expects it!—I am not saying he expects it, but it is part of the loss on the sale, and I have taken it into account. I have taken the income prior and subsequent to the sale, and you will find the loss is so much, and you will find your terms is gone. I think these are rather high, because the sale went on so long, but if the sale went on for five years you would find it even worse.

41779. CHAIRMAN.—I have heard of a good many cases in Ireland where the 3½ per cent. has been paid, and very regularly paid!—Yes.

41780. Why is it paid more regularly in case of direct sale!—Because the Estates Commissioners collect it. It is collected after the sale has gone through, and they have power to demand and collect it. But the tenants know it cannot be collected in the case of indirect sale, so the sale is sanctioned, and we had an instance of that some years ago under the late Land Act. The tenants agreed to pay certain arrears, but once they signed the agreement they snapped their fingers at us and said—"You can't get them." The agent foolishly got the agreement signed before the arrears were paid.

41781. And then you have to modify your statement as far as the losses are concerned to this extent, that if in your opinion it is a liberal allowance against the costs of sale under Section 6, in cases of direct sale, where the 3½ per cent. is paid, and where therefore the loss is not so great, it would strictly be much more liberal!—Well, as a matter of fact, as I said, I have got two cases here. In the last two years I have sold under both systems. Of course, the first case is much the smaller one, and the costs are proportionately higher, but there the tenant did not cover the loss.

41782. One case is under Section 6 and the other direct. Why is it that the cost is so great in the case of direct sale!—Because in the case of direct sale the tenants say—"We won't buy at all if we have to pay any rent at all," and they connected only to those terms.

41783. But I think you said that in case of direct sale to tenants the Estates Commissioners collect the rent due!—We should lose the rent then due. They would not agree to anything being added. I tried to get it added, but they would not agree.

41784. The rent then due was the hanging gale!—I am not putting down anything for arrears of rent, but I am simply taking the actual average.

41785. What do you mean exactly by "the rent then due"!—In November there was a year's rent due. They come in, and they only pay once a year. The actual net receipts from the property I spoke of yesterday during the previous ten years amounted to £175 clear per annum. I find by a memorandum that I made at the time—I had not got it while I was in London, but in this I give the actual net receipts from the property and they work out at £175 a year clear.

June 11, 1897.
The O'Connell
Doc.

41776. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—Was it within the rates?—Yes. That is on a rental of £400, or practically £375, with charges amounting to £200. That was about £400 a year, and they said—"We must pay this." Of course, I had to pay head rent just the same.

41777. CHAIRMAN.—There was a year's rent due which they declined to pay?—Yes.

41778. Was not that equivalent to merely buying the thing one year's purchase less?—In a sense it was, but I wanted to add it to the purchase money, and they would not agree. When you say "the landlord gets so much" you must take off these waddy things that he has to give up.

41779. But you probably got a year's purchase more?—No; we could not add anything.

41780. But suppose you agreed to sell at twenty-two years' purchase or any figure—at twenty-two years' purchase, say—on the condition that the year's rent due was not paid, is not that exactly the same thing to you as if they had bought at twenty-one years' purchase and paid the year's rent, too?—Yes, exactly; but when you say I got twenty-two years' purchase for it you must deduct the bonus. I say I got the twenty-two years' purchase, but the bonus went in all the costs and expenses.

41781. You say you do not get the twenty-two because of the commission of the year's rent?—Yes. I say it is exactly the same as saying I got twenty-one and the bonus or saying I got twenty-two without the bonus.*

41782. Not on the rental?—But I mean without the bonus. I say it cancels the bonus or a portion of the bonus. I take it out of the bonus. Your landlord takes it out of the purchase. They do not pay in cash, and I say in some cases you have a year's rent not paid, and in other cases you have part of a year's rent, and in all cases you have a broken period unpaid, and the landlord loses that broken period absolutely, and there is nothing provided for that.

41783. The difficulty, to my mind, is this—You are trying to arrive at what you call the average cost of sale, and you get down amongst your costs of sale one year's rent due, do you not?—Yes.

41784. And it appears there as a lost sum, but if you had sold at twenty-one years instead of twenty-two that sum would never appear in your costs of sale at all?—No; but I say that if you had been able to sell—it is impracticable, but if you had been able to sell at twenty-one or twenty, and send to the tenant, "You pay the costs of sale," you would have had no costs of sale to pay.

41785. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—I think that Lord Dudley's point, at all events the point I wish to make—is that all those things are part of the sale price of the estate—I admit that, and do not wish to say anything about that; but when you say, "The landlord has got such a high price,"—and it has been said time after time—and he gets the bonus in addition, I say you must make allowance for all this loss of income in the interval and for the costs. Of course, this year's rent is only one item. I say that in a sale under the 6th Section you are forced into other losses of income, and you lose a portion of it anyhow for the broken period. And then I may say, even where the Land Commissioners are bound to pay you interest themselves, and they are responsible whether it is paid or not by the tenant, they do not pay very punctually. I may say that I have got some due since last December. It has not been paid. It is only a small matter, but I was only paid the November instalment a few weeks ago. They do not pay that very quickly, and, of course, if people were in difficulties it might be a matter of importance to be paid quickly. I have not put that into this paper at all; but there are these two items which I wish to point out, which are really in my mind part of the loss consequent on the sale. It is not fair to say, "You have got such a high price," without saying, "You have to deduct from that those costs." You may say if you like, "You have got a low price and a bonus," but do not say, "You have got the full price and the bonus."

41786. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—And this applies equally whether you sell to the Estate Commissioners or to the Congested Districts Board?—It will not apply to a sale to the Congested Districts Board, because they buy en bloc, and they give you cash down. I mean

there is no delay. It is the delay which causes the particular loss. And the Congested Districts Board generally give you something for the arrears.

41787. CHAIRMAN.—Any other point?—Now, as to the cases that prevent owners of both tenanted and untenanted land selling. If the vendor were guaranteed (provided he were not in default) four per cent. on his purchase money from a period of six months after lodgment of the originating request or application, there would be hundreds of owners willing to sell who now are afraid of the delay.

41788. Sir ANTHONY MACDONAGH.—You can make an agreement with your tenants at four per cent. if they please and if you please—I am not aware of anybody having done it with small tenants.

41789. I have known instances where four per cent. was agreed upon.—As a rule it is impracticable in the case of small tenants.

41790. At all events, the Act does not make it per cent. compulsory?—No, but during the period that you are taking this 3½ per cent., or getting whatever you do get, you are paying the charges on the property in full, and your gross income has been reduced. It is not the case merely that after the sale is through you get perhaps a smaller income, but very often an encumbered owner will perhaps get nothing out of the property during the two or three years the sale is going on. I heard a day or two ago a man say—"I am starving, and the waste of the money is going to pay off mortgages and charges and so on."

41791. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Your point is that the delay is the chief reason for landlords not selling more quickly?—I think the delay has an enormous element to say to it. It is the chief reason. If it was a quick business transaction hundreds of these would take to it.

41792. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I thought you said it was immaterial to an owner whether he got twenty-two years' purchase without the bonus or twenty-one with the bonus.† I think it must have been something else than the bonus that you were alluding to?—Somebody corrected me there. I was not quite correct. Twenty-one years' purchase and the portion of the bonus attributable to the year's rent—a deduction of £200 or £400.

41793. The other would not be correct?—Oh, no; the other would not, because the bonus is bigger. But I say the rest of the bonus goes in costs and is lost, but one year's rent goes then and is lost.

41794. I wanted to be sure that I understood you?—I say the rest absolutely goes in necessary costs that are unavoidable, and the amount I have put down for building and so on is not more than is justified by the facts. It has been said that the delay is largely caused by the vendors or their solicitors. This is absurd, as it is obvious that vendors and their solicitors would not delay so much more (if at all) in sales to the Commission as compared with sales to ordinary purchasers, and yet in the latter case a month to six weeks is a usual period to insert in the conditions of sale for the proving of title and completion. I can quote instances. I have had a few instances lately of ground rents, and the longest period in any one was six weeks.

41795. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Was that in England?—No, in Ireland.

41796. And were you dealing with public funds in the public interest?—No, and I say that is all the difference. And I say it is not the solicitors in either case, because in my two cases you had two sets of solicitors, and you could have double delay; but it is a public body, and a public body must necessarily be slower.

41797. You consider that the delay is not in the public interest?—And that it prevents owners from selling.

41798. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you mean to say that the investigation of title, as a rule, of landed estates in Ireland is completed in six weeks?—No; I say that in my particular case the contract was completed in six weeks, and they would have been bound to pay me the full interest for any time over. I insisted on this in the contract, and I agreed to pay them fees if I was not regular, but I know I would be regular. But I would not suggest that it would be possible for the Land Commission to do it in that period, but I think that running it to two or three years is not right.

† See question 41781.

41279. You said you would quote instances, but you quote exceptions?—I quote particular instances that I have had to deal with.

41280. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Let us just take an example of a case in which an owner who has sold his property and has to pay charges while he is receiving only $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Take the case of a property worth £1,000, and say that property is sold at twenty-two years' purchase. That would be £22,000, and $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on that would be £715 a year. Now, take that property of £1,000 a year unenclosed, and with lease, charges, and everything like that existing expense, you would be fortunate if you got £400 a year out of your £1,000!—Perhaps you are taking the cost at too much. I am referring to the actual cost. I gave you the actual receipts and everything in the case I gave. The rent was £400—I will call it £400—and the net receipts for the previous five years, after deducting all expenses of every kind, were £375.

41281. Every year?—Every year.

41282. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Any agent's fees on that?—Yes, 5 per cent.

41283. Deducted?—Yes, but I may say that there are some arrears included.

41284. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—But 5 per cent. agent's fees on £400?—Yes; that is every year, taking it on the average of ten years. But I collected more than what was the year's rent, because every year the tenants paid some of the arrears. They cleared off some of the arrears. I can really show you the rental if you like.

41285. Let us take it at £400. There would be 5 per cent. agent's fees on the £400?—Yes.

41286. And there would be landlord's fees also?—Yes, £7 a year.

41287. What would be the total expenditure that you had to pay out on the management of that estate, bad debts and everything like that—would you put it at ten or fifteen per cent.?—Oh, no, because if you include bad debts you must include good debts, which might counterbalance the arrears.

41288. You are the bad debts out of the £400 would never be recovered?—I might say that the bad debts were almost nil. As a matter of fact, the receipts were every year more than the rent.

41289. But the Land Commission took ten per cent. to be the average cost of management, and that was considered afterwards to be not quite sufficient?

Mr. KAVANAGH.—Mr. Gladstone put it down as 7 per cent.

41290. Sir ANTHONY MACDONNELL.—Let us take it as ten per cent. That would give you £200 out of £1,000, and the difference between that and £715 would be £185, and that would be, you see, the loss on such an estate as that?—Yes.

41291. If on the other hand, the expenditure was greater the loss would be less?—And if the expenditure was less the loss would be greater.

41292. Well, then, the interest on the charges you would have to meet would be, as a rule, four or five per cent.?—I should think so, on a great many of them.

41293. Would the interest on the mortgage be four or five per cent.?—Five very often. Four-and-a-half would be, I should think, the average. You can take it that the whole £185 comes out of your margin. That is the way I look at it, because it is no matter what the income comes from, the whole loss comes out of your margin, and it is a very heavy loss if your margin is small; and if your margin is big it is not so material. And then you are calculating your interest on the whole period, instead of calculating it only on the broken period. I put the actual figures in this case, what the receipts and everything were, for the purpose of comparison.

41294. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Might not you have the proceeds of that sale at four per cent., and if you did you would have an income nearly equal to the £205 a year?—No; I think somebody would cut these figures here for me.

41295. I worked them out. Twenty-two years' purchase of £400 is £8,800, and four per cent. on that would give £352!—The way I have done is this. I have taken the actual cash receipts that I got at the end and that is £2,595, or what I, in fact, got out of the sale.

41296. How much?—£2,595, that is allowing for

those losses in the sale, and $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on that gives £228 a year. Jan 11, 1907.

41297. I thought you got twenty-two years' purchase on the rental?—Yes. The O'Casey Doc.

41298. Very well. Twenty-two years purchase on a rental of £400 gives £8,800. Is not that so?—Yes.

41299. You invested at 4 per cent., that gives £352 a year?—Well, here is the way I have worked it. I have invested at 4 per cent., so that gives £352 a year as against £375.

41300. Yes, but when you take £375 you include some arrears, because otherwise it would not come to so much?—I know. The tenants were gradually paying off their arrears, but I have charged a year's rent here as a loss in full, and I have not added anything more for arrears but deduct the actual figures, in fact, charges, redemption, and costs, which you have not allowed for; and the way I have done it is this: I have put down the £2,595, and the losses, £1,056. That makes the gross purchase money £2,886.

41301. Yes; that is more than I took it. I did not mind the losses at all?—Well, then, you have got to deduct redemption price of head rent, £5,000. That is about the figure in fact.

41302. Yes; but how shall we work that out to £375 a year?—My margin was £175 after paying the charges.

41303. You deduct, then, how much?—£5,000.

41304. That leaves £2,886?—£2,886. Then I deduct £1,100 for costs and loss during sale, and those are the actual figures. In this calculation I made a mistake of £100, because I put surveying and some other things down twice. That gives you a balance of £2,786. That, at $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. gives you £211 10s., as against £215.

41305. But that £215 would include arrears?—Yes, and you might take £15 off.

41306. That would be £150; and £2,595 at 4 per cent. would give you nearly £150?—Yes. That is far less.

41307. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Now, your father and yourself were resident landlords?—Yes.

41308. In the case of non-resident landlords, absentee landlords, the margin for management of an estate is probably a good deal larger?—No.

41309. Naturally money is spent on labourers' wages, and so on, and the rent is paid more easily in the case of a resident landlord, and you would not put that forward as offering any example of the margin between the net and nominal income of an absentee estate?—As a matter of fact I may say that one of these estates is an absentee estate, in the sense that it is a good way from our place, and there is no real connection with the other, and the other has a residence, and the net receipts are very much larger in the case of the absentee estate. It is the other way about to what you are putting to me.

41310. And would you say that the absentee estate is more easily managed?—Yes.

41311. And the rents paid more readily?—Yes. Where the landlord is on the spot, if he is a good-natured man, like my father was, and the tenants can pay any time, the rents are not paid at all as regularly as they would be in the other place, where there is nobody to come to, and it is the same as the Land Commission. And your landlord will recognize that.

41312. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is not it almost unarranged that you should have, year by year, £375 out of £400?—It is high.

41313. And that was the case of a resident landlord?—No, because, as a matter of fact, it happened that so long as my father was resident there he did not get anything like that; but in 1896 he transferred it to me, and I was an absentee in London during that period, and I think that was the reason the rents were paid so well.

41314. Did you not consider your father as resident there?—No, because he said he would not interfere, and that he would have nothing to say to it.

41315. CHAIRMAN.—Perhaps we might go on now!—Well, as to compulsion, that is quite unnecessary, as any quantity of grass lands can be bought without it if a fair price be given, and, above all, delay in completion be avoided. Some of the witnesses, when dealing with the question of price, say that the graziers are in a bad way, and are gradually getting into difficulties. If this is so it is obviously the better course to wait, so as to get the land cheaper. Mr. Doane

Ju = 11, 1907.
The O'Casey
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argues that if lands are not got now they never can be, as they are being sold, and there are many anxious to buy. This does not look as if granting was a failing business. If they are being sold too dear the grantees will not be able to make them pay, and they will again come into the market cheap. If they are being sold too low the Congested Districts Board can offer more and buy. He admits an enormous quantity of grazing land is on the market. Again, if compulsion is to be used, and the grantees evaded, it can be done just as well after he has bought as now. The demands for powers of compulsory purchase has arisen because landlords regard many of the prices offered as inadequate and unfair. If fair prices were given there would be no grounds for proposing compulsion. My idea of a fair price would be as follows, and I believe that, on such terms, all land required could be obtained without compulsion:—The annual value of the required untenanted land should, unless the owner elects to prove the contrary, be taken to be one and a third times the Poor Law valuation, i.e., the normal standard for income tax. The double interest of owner and occupier would thus be provided for. But as in many cases, the Poor Law valuation is largely under the net annual income, the owner should have the option of proving, by means of his books or otherwise, on sworn evidence, before a judicial tribunal, the actual net receipts, and where he exercised this option the net receipts so proved should be treated as the annual value. The vendor should then get such capital sum as would yield him as income the net value thus ascertained.

41836. **SIR ANTHONY MACDONELL.**—One question I wish to ask. You say you take the annual value to be one and a third times the Poor Law valuation?—Yes.

41837. The Poor Law valuation being 6 per cent. higher than the first term rent?—Second term.

41838. In Roscommon the Poor Law valuation is 6 per cent. higher than the first term rent, and the Poor Law valuation, therefore, would be considerably higher than the second term rent?—But you must remember that it is very difficult to get at what is the fair rent of grass lands.

41839. I am pointing out to you what the position would be. If you say that the basis for calculation of what the price would be ought to be the Poor Law valuation plus one-third, you therefore take a very much higher basis for your calculation than second term rent, second term rent being the basis of calculation in the fixation of price under the Land Purchase Act.

41840. **CHAIRMAN.**—The whole difference is that second term rents represent the landlord's interest, and not the occupier's interest?—Of course, the Poor Law valuation is put down as representing the landlord, and the third as the occupier.

41841. **SIR ANTHONY MACDONELL.**—Was that the way you did it?—That is the way the income-tax people do it.

41842. But you do know of an estate on which the grass lands were sold on the basis of 15 per cent. under the Poor Law valuation, offering a fair basis upon which to work?—No; I do not.

41843. You referred to it just now in your own case?—As offering a fair basis?

41844. Upon which to calculate the number of years' purchase?—I admit I know of a case where that was done, but there was very great objection raised to the price being sufficient.

41845. But it was done voluntarily?—It would not have been sold if it had not been for the tenanted land.

41846. But I want to point out that you are laying down for the purchase of grass lands a basis which is entirely different from that of the Land Purchase Act, second term rents being taken as the basis of land purchase?—Of course, you have no second term rents in the grass lands.

41847. You must endeavour to get at something in the case of the grass lands that would be equivalent to second term rents?—And I would say one and a third on Mr. Deane's figures would be very low.

41848. What is the other alternative you take—one and a third, or what?—What I say is that in a large quantity of those cases you have got your value fixed.

41849. **MRS. REV. DR. O'DONOVAN.**—You say the State puts the occupier's interest at one-third of the owner's in taxing you?—Yes.

41850. Is not the owner's interest, for sale purposes, represented by the second term rents?—No.

41851. Would not it be a good plan to find the average of second term rents on similar lands in the county, and add a third in order to ascertain the owner's interest?—Well, you see it is an almost impossible thing, because you may have two holdings next each other, one with a second term rent, and the other with a first term rent, and one as low as the other. I may say the same with regard to our own estate. There were very few second term rents on it, and there was great difficulty in some of those cases for the second term rents were not any lower than the first. Some of the tenants went in and got no reduction at all.

41852. The valuation apparently in one county is over the first term rents?—But in Roscommon the figures that Sir Anthony has quoted from my chiefly based on a very poor class of land, because in Roscommon there are no second term rents at all on the very good land, and the figures would not work out at all on the grass lands.

41853. **SIR ANTHONY MACDONELL.**—But at all events we come to this certain basis, that you, yourself, and your late father, have sold grass lands chiefly on the basis of the Poor Law valuation, taking the Poor Law valuation and then applying a certain number of years' purchase, which, in your own case, was twenty-four years?—Yes. You may be aware that my father said that he did not for a moment think of taking such a figure, but you see when you have gone as far as that you cannot go back. It was a great compulsion.

41854. I venture to say that that would be challenged?—But at all events that is the fact.

41855. **CHAIRMAN.**—Just tell me, as you are now speaking of your case, so far as it is the fact that the Estates Commissioners refused to declare your father's tenanted land an estate unless he threw in the grass land with it?—They refused to declare Clonsilla a property, and he said, "I am willing to give the Belanagare grass land with Belanagare estate, which adjoins it, or give a large quantity of it, for the adjoining tenants, whenever an arrangement is made for the sale of the estate, and I will undertake that, whenever I do come to an arrangement with the Belanagare tenants." And the Estates Commissioners said, "No. We won't let the Clonsilla estate" (the tenants were most anxious to buy on Clonsilla) "go through unless you give the grass land of Belanagare with Clonsilla." My father said, "I will be in a difficulty when the Belanagare estate comes to be sold," and eventually it was decided to sell them as one estate.

41856. But the Estates Commissioners declined to declare the Clonsilla estate an estate for the purpose of sale under the Act of 1903 unless the Belanagare grass lands were put in with it?—Quite so; and the Belanagare land is twelve miles away, and my father said, "It is no use, because they won't go there."

41857. So that I understood from you that in your father's opinion the price of the grass land of Belanagare was very much affected by the fact that it was only by selling that that it was possible for him to get the Clonsilla tenanted estate declared an estate and sold?—Yes; and I may say that if he had been offered the price that it was eventually arranged to be sold at, and if he had known that he could not have got more than that, I have no doubt that he would not have sold it; but when you have been two years at a task you will go through.

41858. **SIR ANTHONY MACDONELL.**—What I want to bring out is this, that landlords—yes, yourself, as I said, and there are, no doubt, many others—have sold grass lands in Roscommon on the basis of the Poor Law valuation, applying to it a certain number of years' purchase (I think it was twenty-five years' purchase), and that you have sold your domains on those terms, and bought them back?—I don't say yes. The domains were bought back at a higher price.

41859. I do not single you out, because I know that has been the case with others. The Congested Districts Board bought lands on that basis, taking the Poor Law valuation, and applying a certain number of years' purchase, what they could get the landlords to agree to. In some instances we bought at twenty-seven years' purchase, and in some at thirty. And I think, my lord, we have gone, in some cases, even higher.

June 11, 1867.

The O'Connell
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Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Quite so.
41260. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—But the basis taken was the Poor Law valuation, and there was no idea of adding on a third, and if you do add on a third I think you will have to reduce the multiple to 1. I think the Bishop told us that the Congested Districts Board in practice added something for the occupation interest.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—That is so, but that is independent of the valuation.

41261. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—We took the valuation as the prime basis, and then we applied to it a number of years' purchase, which we were in the habit of giving for tenanted land; and then we considered the landlord to be entitled to something else, because in him were concentrated the two interests. That is the difference between the system of valuation at present of the Congested Districts Board and the Estates Commissioners as far as I have been able to understand, but I have never been able to trace it fully yet. The Estates Commissioners go into the market and say, "We will give you a price of £——." It is exactly what I am suggesting, only the multiple may be possibly different. I say so many years' purchase of the Poor Law valuation for the landlord's interest, and a third for the occupation interest. The multiple may be different, but the principle is really the same.

41262. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The procedure that the Congested Districts Board followed is what Sir Arthur has outlined for you. The Board was in the habit of giving more money for land on which no tenant resided than for land in the occupation of a tenant. The Board looked upon itself as in the one case acquiring a dual interest, and gave more for such land. Mr. Doran fixed the fair annual value, and the Board said how many years' purchase the Board would give of that annual value. Sir Arthur is perfectly right in saying that the Government valuation was not the basis on which we proceeded in those transactions—I thought it was so valued, and I was just trying to value that question.

41263. What he said to you was that the Congested Districts Board did not add a third to the Government valuation in fixing a basis for the number of years' purchase offered by the Board?—No; but I mean that the Congested Districts Board, if I understand the matter rightly, went on Mr. Doran's valuation, and not on the Poor Law valuation.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—That is right.

41264. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—But the Poor Law valuation is always a factor in Mr. Doran's figures.

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Certainly!—But in those figures twenty-seven years' purchase is mentioned. That, I understand, is twenty-seven years' purchase of Mr. Doran's valuation.

41265. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Of whatever valuation we accepted as being the proper basis?—It is not necessarily the Poor Law valuation.

41266. For instance, in Rosemount the Poor Law valuation would be a nearer approach to the rental of untenanted land than elsewhere, because in other places it would be much less, but in Rosemount the Poor Law valuation is higher than the first term rent, and in many other counties it is much less. But I do not think it is perfectly fair, because it is a totally different class of land, first term land in Rosemount, and altogether a poor class. There are no rents fixed on the grass lands, so that you cannot draw any conclusion from that.

41267. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—On the return presented to this Commission by the Congested Districts Board the price paid for untenanted land is measured in the number of years' purchase of the Government valuation, but that is by special request of this Commission?—Yes, certainly, and consequently when Sir Arthur says that there is twenty-seven years' purchase of the valuation that does not mean twenty-seven years' purchase of the poor law valuation. It is of Mr. Doran's or whatever gentleman you employ; and what the proportion to the poor law valuation is I do not know.

41268. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Well, the only conclusion I come to is to challenge the necessity of adding a third to the poor law valuation?—Well, you add on something to the valuation, and I put

in as a third. You add three or four years' purchase. The objection to taking in all cases the not receipts is that where a man farms his own lands it is often impossible to ascertain exactly what are the net receipts. The lands required may be farmed jointly with other lands, and it may be impossible to allocate the profits. Again, a great many tenants own, largely for the purpose of giving employment, employ more labour than is necessary, and thereby reduce the profits. It would be unfair to penalise them. This has been done on the Glenties estate for many years, and the farming profits on it are consequently small, but the labour bill comes to over £1,000 a year. Mr. Doran's evidence, moreover, shows conclusively that the true value of the grass lands is largely in excess of the prime basis standard which I suggest above, and consequently the owner should have the option of proving the actual profits where he is able to do so. The standard above suggested for arriving at the fair price of untenanted lands would do away with the great uncertainty that now prevails when the price is left to be fixed by valuers who differ enormously in their views. The uncertainty of the results of such valuations could not be better illustrated than by the correspondence which has appeared in the Times for many months past as to the extraordinary discrepancies in the valuations of even the most eminent professional valuers in England. Of course, it was last year when this note was written, and there was for some six months a correspondence in the Times showing that professional valuers were valuing in the most extraordinary way, one putting on one value and another another. Before concluding I would like to say one word about landlords of the West. It has been alleged that they did nothing for their tenants. I repudiate this. On the Glenties estate for many years past more than the whole rental of the estate has been spent annually in labour there. In 1886 or thereabouts my father spent over £4,000 in relief of distress works on the property, chiefly on tenants' holdings. When seed potatoes were necessary he has often given them out free to his tenants under 25 valuation, and I have done so this year. He constantly gave his tenants timber, etc., for their houses, building bridges, etc., and although I have sold the property I am continuing this practice. Another practice that greatly assisted the tenants was to allow them to pay the rent by feeding one or more head of young cattle. Although I have sold the property I had a number of applications for cattle in order to pay the Land Commission rent. I sent out cattle to the tenant, although it is not a very paying way of feeding them.

41269. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Perhaps you did that as an Irish knight rather than as a landlord?—Well, it has been the practice on the property, and all I say is that you must not abuse us too much for the way we treat our tenants. The Estate Commissioners have taken over the property, and so far as I can see, they have not done anything to help the tenants on the Glenties estate, except giving holdings to two or three of them, and the tenants are fully expecting a few thousand pounds to be spent, but I do not know whether they will be disappointed. I believe there are many landlords who have assisted their tenants in similar ways. To summarise the whole situation, I say give the Congested Districts Board ample funds and full powers of regulating holdings and carrying out drainage works, a proper staff, and ensure quick payments of purchase-money to vendors, and they will be able to do a very great deal towards ameliorating the lot of the peas in the West of Ireland. Just before I leave I might mention one point that Mr. Fingleton alluded to. There are three estates adjoining mine, and they have been sold under the three systems: the Sandford estate, the Dillon estate, the De Freyne estate, and my Glenties estate. Mine has been sold under Section 6, the Sandford estate under direct sale, and the De Freyne and Dillon estates to the Congested Districts Board. And I may say that of these three different ways, the tenants are well pleased with that of the Congested Districts Board.

41271. Sir ARTHUR MACDONNELL.—Because their holdings have been improved?—Yes.

41272. And the Estates Commissioners have no money to improve the holdings, because it was not bought as a congested estate?—No. So far as that

June 11, 1907. *Yes, the landlord would raise no objection whatever.*

The O'Connell

41873. *Yours is less congested than the Dillon or De Freyne estates?—It is not congested within the meaning of the Act, and that is one of the points I raised at the beginning, because although there is very great congestion on two or three townlands, taking it as a whole, it is not congested.*

41874. *Chairman.*—Tell me, in the case of a property like yours, where your estate is sold to the Estates Commissioners under Section 6, and therefore, as Sir Anthony has pointed out, cannot be improved, but must be merely re-sold by the Estates Commissioners to the tenants, what is the difference really in practice between that and direct sale?—I think there is very little, except that there is a possibility of migrating the tenants; and with respect to the Clonsilla estate, we were delayed a year and a half over the sale of the Clonsilla estate in order to provide facilities for that.

41875. *You say there is very little difference except that there is an opportunity of migrating?—Yes.*

41876. *How does the opportunity of migrating come in?—Because they buy grass lands in order to transplant tenants from the tenanted part to the grass lands.*

41877. *But they can only do it if they can get back from the tenants the actual sum of money which they gave to the landlord, is not that so?—They can spend money in fencing and building; they can do something in that way.*

41878. *Sir Anthony MacDonnell.*—For new tenants?—*Yes.*

41879. *Only to the extent of 10 per cent?—Yes. But I may say that there is some way of doing it.*

41880. *Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.*—Out of a reserve fund?—There is some way even where there is direct sale, because they spent £2,000 on the Rosfield estate, and they have spent nothing so far on ours.

41881. *Chairman.*—On what have they spent £20,000 on the Rosfield estate?—On draining bog.

41882. *But they have not actually altered the tenants?—No. They have removed a few of our*

tenants, but I cannot say they have removed them from the really congested part.

41883. *Mr. Sutherland.*—This other estate on which they spent the £2,000 must have been scheduled?—*No. But the Clonsilla estate is in a scheduled area, and Belanagare is not, and as a matter of fact the estate that is not in the scheduled area has had all the holdings enlarged, and the one that is in the scheduled area has not.*

41884. *Because there was land available in one case?—Because there was land available. But I think something could be done to improve Clonsilla, although a good deal has been done already.*

41885. *Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.*—You live pretty near the Dillon estate?—*Yes, adjoining it.*

41886. *What has been your observation of the operations there?—Have they not considered much to the advantage of the tenants?—Oh, yes, they have; and there is a good deal of that due to wages. I do not think it can be disputed that there have been very good wages given, and there is a great deal of employment.*

41887. *And many of the holdings still remain uneconomical. Would there be grass lands pretty near for the enlargement of some of those holdings of the Dillon tenants which are uneconomical?—That depends on what you mean by pretty near. The Dillon estate stretches twenty-five miles. From the end across Castlerea, I would say there would be grass lands within ten miles.*

41888. *I ask you for this reason, that one might contemplate a small occupier surrendering his little property for the enlargement of his neighbour's holding, and therefore intending to move to a better holding. Do you think that that will likely occur on the Dillon estate?—I think it will to some extent, but I think there is much more desire to get an enlarged holding than to move to a new one. You know, in the case of the Clonsilla estate before we sold, the tenants came forward and said they must have grass lands, and they would all go, but when it came to the point of going, although the Commissioners did all they possibly could to get some of them to go to Belanagare, they got none except one man who did not practically live there, and he is a schoolmaster, and had a plot of 15s. a year.*

Mr W. HARRINGTON continued.

41889. *Chairman.*—Since this Commission began to sit we have had a great many remarks made in the course of the evidence with regard to the help industry by people who suggested to us, especially in the country, that the help industry might be encouraged by grants from the Congested Districts Board. We have been told that prices of help very considerably, being much better some years than others; and we have also heard that during the last few years a process has been invented for obtaining iodine from other things besides seaweed, and that this has very much affected the value of the help industry. We are very anxious, therefore, to obtain some evidence from someone like yourself who knows all about it as to how far these things which we have heard are true?—It is very many years since I have been in touch with the help industry. I may mention my firm manufactures chemicals. We thought we might do something in the way of recovering iodine from help in connection with other matters. With that view I remember going to the West of Kerry and interviewing an enterprising man there, a Mr. McDonnell or O'Donnell in Castlegregory. He took a keen interest in it. There was help to be had there. He went in for it on a pretty large scale.

41890. *Sir Francis Mowatt.*—Did he go into it experimentally or as a trader?—He collected the seaweed and burned the help.

41891. *He went into it commercially?—Yes, he thought it might pay, and be a good thing to do for the sake of the people about. He also had the idea not of selling the help as help, but of extracting the salts from it. Help contains potash salts and soda salts. They are of a certain value. The idea we had was that he should get as much of the salts out of the help as possible, and send up to our works the concentrated iodine liquor. The iodine is one of the last things that remain in the liquor. The other salts crystallise out. We worked*

that for a short time. It just paid its way. I think he was handicapped rather inasmuch as he could not always get enough of the weed. It was a limited quantity that came in, and the weather prevented the people from getting it sometimes, and so on. We extracted the iodine partly, and also we sent it in a concentrated form to France. We got a market for it there. I may say it was done through an agent in London. He applied to us for concentrated iodine solution. It was in fact that that gave us food of all the idea of starting this thing. He got it into France without duty by calling it soda lye. He got it in salt form, that is without paying duty, and it paid him very well. Then Mr. McDonnell got into bad health, and died soon afterwards, and the thing collapsed. That is my experience of it. The Chairman has mentioned that it was suggested that there was another source for iodine that has been known for very many years. The principal source of iodine is from Chilli salt-petre. Many years ago at the time that I was thinking of going in for this iodine business, I made several inquiries in London and elsewhere, and found that there were immense stocks of iodine and could swamp the market any time they liked, so that it was a dangerous thing I thought for anyone to put works in Ireland for the purpose of extracting not only the iodine from the help, but also the salts, the potash and other salts.

41892. *Mr. Sutherland.*—Would that be equally dangerous?—*No. The potash salts are marketable always. Long ago, when help started in Ireland, potash was not known in great quantity. Germany had not found such deposits of potash. I should say subsequent to that when they were found they took away from the profits of the help industry to a very large extent.*

41893. *What is the form in which potash is contained in it?—There is 35 to 40 per cent. of chloride*

Mr. W. Harrington.

of potash in help, and about 10 per cent. of sulphate of potash.

41964. Potassium chloride?—Yes, and of sulphate of potash about 10 per cent., and perhaps 5 or 6 per cent. carbonate of potash.

41965. Apart from the iodine, which I understand is the most valuable part, would these other potash salts pay to manufacture?—That is the point. It means a good deal of trouble to extract them. They are worth about £9 a ton. It depends principally upon what you can get help for, and what the extraction costs.

41966. CHAIRMAN.—What was being paid for help at the time so which you refer to?—I do not remember exactly.

41967. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Was not it sold early in the last century for as high as £20 a ton?—I don't know it was.

41968. CHAIRMAN.—Does it not now come to £4 a ton sometimes?—If it was good help.

41969. During the last two or three years we have heard that help has been fetching from £3 to £4 a ton?—I should not be surprised.

41970. If it is found so easy to extract iodine from Chile saltpetre, and if there are these large reserve supplies of iodine in London, why is there a market for help at all now?—The amount of iodine they get from all the help they receive is such a negligible compound with the amount that they have from the other sources that really they don't mind the competition. The price is regulated by the Chilean supply altogether, and the others have to fall in with it. It is not their policy to run it out altogether. They make more by keeping the price steady. The help people have to follow them. There is some profit to be made also, no doubt, out of the potash salts that they recover.

41971. In your opinion there would be always a certain market for Irish help?—That depends upon whether those who are using it now will always continue to manufacture from it; but there is always the fear that if it became a serious competitor with the Chilean supply they might knock the price down.

41972. Could it become a serious competitor; is not the process so laborious?—It is a matter of quantity; what they get altogether.

41973. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Is the quality of such kind of iodine the same?—Yes, the same iodine. This iodine is not so valuable now as it was a few years ago. It is about eight shillings a pound now. They have plenty of it there in Chile.

41974. They don't get it out of the nitrate?—Yes; that is the source.

41975. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is it as popular in medicine as ever, or has there been any falling off in that respect?—No. It is used quite as much as ever.

41976. Do you know what percentage of iodine a ton of help would produce?—It varies very much. It depends altogether on the quality of the help. It varies from 2 to 14 per cent. The general run would be from 4 to 5; about one-half per cent.

41977. It depends on how it is burned, and so on?—Yes. A lot of it is mixed up with sand. There is a great loss in the way they burn it. Improvements could be made in that way. There would be a great deal more iodine in the help if it were properly burned.

41978. One gentleman in Donegal said: "If I might be allowed, there is a little industry I should like to refer to that belongs to the congested districts. It is the help industry that exists a good deal around the division which I represent in Donegal. It was a very paying industry for years, and even last year the price was as high as £3 and £4 a ton. But the people round here represent to me that they often think it is worth more, but that there is no competition for buying. They say the shore is divided into districts, by the buyers, and that one buyer will not buy in another's district. They say it cut among three. These fishermen and others who know this help are saying that this year they have no buyers at all, and that they received no notice from the buyers that they were going to come. Consequently there are between £1,500 and £1,600 worth of help lying on the hands of the people for which they can find no market." That is at page 47 of the Appendix to our Second Report?—I can quite understand that they are completely in the hands of the buyers. I think there is only one firm that works help in Scotland.

41979. Any in Ireland?—I don't think that there is any firm in Ireland that works help, and extracts the iodine from it.

41980. It is all exported?—Yes. I think Paterson is the name of the firm in Scotland.

41981. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Is it the same firm that controls the supply from South America?—They have nothing whatever to say to that, and have no control over that supply at all.

41982. CHAIRMAN.—Do you mean to say that the only people who buy this help are Paterson's buyers?—That is what I think. There is no proper competition in the market for it. That brings the price down very low. The only way to remedy that is to start another works. Who is going to do that?

41983. Suppose the Congested Districts Board were to buy against these buyers, so they did with regard to the herrings and mackerel, in order to keep up the price, is there any way in which they could get rid of the help when they bought it?—No way at all. There are very few users of help. I don't know of any but the one firm. There may be one or two.

41984. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Taking that another stage, it would be quite intelligible if the Paterson firm controlled the iodine supply from South America that the starting of a factory to make iodine on the Irish coast might lead to the suppression of the help industry altogether?—It might, of course.

41985. But if we assume that the Paterson firm merely supply iodine from help to the general market, what is there to justify an apprehension that if a factory were started on the Irish coast to make iodine out of help, as the Patersons do in Scotland, that those who control the market would interfere and swamp the Irish trade, or to put iodine on the market so cheaply as to make the Irish manufacture an impossibility?—Certainly, I think they have no reason at all for raising down the price more than at present. It is all a matter of the amount of iodine recovered. If the industry grew to such an extent that the amount recovered from help was three or four times what it is now then it might be a question whether they would lower the price, but as long as no more iodine is made from help than at present I don't see why they should take more notice of it than now.

41986. CHAIRMAN.—And there would not be any reason?—I don't think so.

41987. Paterson's make their iodine from help collected around these coasts?—Quite so.

41988. They have to put it on the market at a price which is governed by the Chilean supply?—Quite so.

41989. Suppose that a factory were started in Ireland, all that would happen would be that a certain amount of the help would be diverted from Paterson's factory to this factory?—Quite so.

41990. The general output of iodine would not be any greater?—No.

41991. Unless you assume that Paterson does not buy to the full extent that he could buy?—That is quite so.

41992. Then, as to the price you could pay to the people who burn it, it is a question of what Paterson's real profit is, after he has bought from these people?—It is, of course.

41993. It is a question of whether Paterson could, if he chose, afford to pay those people a better price and yet put his iodine on the market at the same price?—Yes, it is, altogether. He might not be able to give more, but, of course, I need not tell you that when there is only one manufacturer working a new material like that, the tendency is to give as little as possible.

41994. Of course he has got a monopoly?—That stands to reason.

41995. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Has the price of iodine kept up in later days?—Yes, it is about eight shillings a pound now. It was never much above that. I think it might have been nine or ten shillings.

41996. CHAIRMAN.—In your opinion, it would be worth the while of the Congested Districts Board seriously to consider the suggestion that has been made?—The only way they can meet that and cause some competition in price would be to have works started in Ireland, but then that is a big undertaking, possibly.

41997. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Does it involve very expensive machinery and staff?—No; I should not

* See Appendix to Second Report of the Commission [C. 5115, 1907], p. 47.

June 11, 1895.
Mr. W.
Harrington.

say it would run into a great deal of money; but you would want to go into it very carefully or it might be a failure. That would not be nice. You would want to get a good deal of opinion on the subject.

41928. CHATELAIN.—What sort of plant does it require?—There is a good deal of evaporation. The help, as it comes, is treated with water. All the salts have to be dissolved out of it. These various salts crystallise out. Some products crystallise out before others. The very first product to crystallise out is sulphate of potash. Then they go on evaporating, and they get some of the soda salts out. The third crystallisation generally brings the chloride of potash out. The residue then contains more soluble salts, such as iodine salts, sulphate, and other compounds of soda, which are formed in the beginning, sulphate of soda, carbonate of soda, and chloride of soda.

41929. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Are all those different salts marketable?—Not all. Sulphate of soda is worth nothing, but the potash salts are all marketable at £9 a ton.

41930. You have all these by-products besides the iodine?—Yes. There is over 90 per cent. of potash salts in the help, fetching about £9 a ton.

41931. In a factory like Paterson's, that deals with help, is his main output and his main source of profit the iodine or potash salts?—That I cannot tell you at all.

41932. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—He might have his working expenses out of the iodine, and make his profit out of the by-products?—That is quite so.

41933. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Do you recollect what the expenditure of Mr. McDonnell was?—No. I never got any return from him of his expenses, but he told me he got about clear out of it, but he did it in a very experimental way. I need not tell you that anything done in that way will not pay properly. If you want to do a thing in which there is a narrow margin, you must do it on the most economical lines possible.

41934. CHATELAIN.—He put up a factory himself?—No. He had a sort of engine. He did it in an inexpensive way, but it was a ruinous way.

41935. Did he actually procure the seaweed himself?—Yes; he had men employed collecting and burning, and he then extracted these salts himself, and sent up the concentrated liquor containing the iodine and many of the soda salts. He got the potash out of it, and I think he used the potash as manure.

41936. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Did he do that by burning it openly as we see on the coast?—Yes.

41937. There was no house built?—No. Of course it was wasteful.

41938. Are you aware that in some places there are brick houses with nothing but burning places in them?—Yes.

41939. I saw that in Scotland, I think, done by this same firm, but unfortunately I was not so much interested at that time, and I did not ask, but my information is that they only did the burning, and then the help was transported to the Clyde, where it is finished?—Quite so.

41940. Would that system were anything in Ireland? If there were brick houses with furnaces built would it be a more economical way?—No doubt, it would be better. The present method is a very crude way of burning. It means that a lot of iodine is lost, and I think that they could be instructed so as to burn it to greater advantage. A great deal could be done in that way, and another thing that might be suggested, is that they ought to be paid really according to the percentage of iodine in the help, so that those who took the trouble to burn it properly would have an incentive by getting a remuneration for their care. For that reason, I think it would be a good thing if some arrangement could be made by which they should be paid according to the amount of iodine, because, I need not tell you, that much of it is a good deal adulterated with sand. The manufacturer, when giving his price, takes the good with the bad, so that those who are really careful do not get the benefit that they should.

41941. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—But the plan that was contemplated was rather that some authority

should start a furnace, or whatever you like to call it, buy the help at so much a ton from the people, and do the burning themselves, and export the ashes?—Or recover the salts from the help, remove everything that is marketable.

41942. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—This firm in Glasgow might buy it in that state? They would, but there would be no advantage as compared with taking the help over, as you would have to pay freight on the sulphate of potash.

41943. CHATELAIN.—If you started a factory in Ireland for getting in Ireland the salts, and sodas, out of the help, would you suggest that they ought to buy the seaweed from the people or the help? do you think that the people ought to burn the seaweed?—I would suggest that they should buy the help. If I was working a factory, I would give a better price to those who gave help with a large percentage of iodine. That is the valuable portion, and I would pay according to that, just as they pay according to the amount of cream in the milk sent to the creameries. If this were done, the people would very soon get into the proper way of burning, and you would get the best results.

41944. Is there such a thing as good burning and bad burning?—Yes; and such a thing as putting a lot of sand into the help.

41945. For weight?—Yes.

41946. But you can burn the seaweed in such a bad way as to lose some of the iodine?—No matter how you burn it you lose a certain amount of it, but you burn it a great deal more by carelessness, and they might be instructed in that way; but the only way you could have a lot of competition in the price of help is by starting works in Ireland; but it is another question whether it would pay or not. That I cannot give you any information about.

41947. CHATELAIN.—Let me read you one or two questions and answers from the report of our evidence in Donegal, page 33.—"Is there such a thing anywhere as a factory for help?—No, there is not, but they manufacture help. The chemical works to which the help is sent are at Faldeth and Bowling, on the Clyde." I suppose that is Paterson's. Then Mr. Sutherland says:—"You think it would not be impossible to get such a factory as they have at Bowling?—It was once attempted, but all such attempts fail through want of support. It was attempted at Meencally by Benjamin St. John Baptist Joshi, of Rochesky, Bute." "The price of help fluctuates?—Yes, from £3 to £4 a ton." "It would pay at £4 a ton?—It would pay well at £4 a ton." "What is the current price?—From £3 to £4. About £3 10s. Some years it is less. It depends upon the quality." Then:—"But you are of opinion that the industry is capable of development?—Yes. It is a valuable industry." "And that the by-products are valuable for manure?—I am sure they would be a top-dressing." "Have you any locality to propose where this help may be gathered?—I would not suggest the locality. I think I would leave that to the people who know the neighbourhood well." Then, at page 38:—"Another considerable industry along this coast is kelp. The price varies from £4 to £5 a ton. Last year there were 175 tons exported from the port of Banbeg. This year the price was only £3 a ton." "Have you ever heard it said that help could be dispensed with altogether?—I know it could, because they have discovered other ways of getting iodine. What ruined the kelp industry in this place for a number of years was that they turned a number of heavy stones in the centre to make it weigh, and they said they never had such a prosperous year as their lives." "As a matter of fact, the theory is advanced that chemical processes are known, which if put into operation by those who have control of them, could ruin the kelp industry?—Very possibly. I am not prepared to say that." "Mr. Sutherland.—The kelp industry is rather precarious in the present state of chemical science?—Yes, but they get the price for what they produce." "The Chairman.—Is that because manufacturers think that a second string to their bow is desirable?—Very possibly that may be the reason."

41948. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Have you been asked at any time to purchase iodine from help made on the north coast?—No.

41949. There was a little factory at the Fahan station near Bangor, conducted by the station-master?—Yes, he recovered the iodine himself?

41950. And he had some little help from the Congested Districts Board, but the project was on a very small scale, and the man who had to attend to trains could not do much at it?—Of course; but I don't think he met any loss by it?—Of course his best plan would be to sell the concentrated liquor to the market.

41951. Have you any idea of the size of a factory that would apply a reasonable test to this industry?—I have not. That is a matter that would have to be gone into. I could not tell you what amount you should turn over in order to make it pay. Things with a narrow margin like that have to be worked on a certain scale. Otherwise you cannot get any profit out of it. The charges on small things are very often as big as those on large.

41952. Would you contemplate in reference to starting this industry on the Irish coast, that it should be with a view, in case success was likely, of starting several if not many factories along the coast?—The only thing is, would you get at any one point enough help to supply many factories. I fear not.

41953. You alluded to the process of burning kelp, and you said that there is a better and a worse process?—There is.

41954. Is not it also important to get the May weed for this?—Yes. Some weed has more iodine than others.

41955. With reference to the purity of the kelp itself, did it occur to you that inspection might be instituted to prevent the mixture of stones with the weed?—Of course, I think all that could be regulated by paying according to the contents of the kelp. If that were done, the evil would soon remedy itself.

41956. I presume it is difficult to do that?—Yes. It is hard to get an even sample.

41957. If the manufactured article is not tested, it will go to Scotland, and it will be difficult to make arrangements to pay upon the value of the article?—Yes.

41958. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—When the kelp is burned, what remains?—All the organic matter goes away, and the minerals remain. All vegetable matter has a certain amount of mineral contents. They remain as ash, with a certain amount of this blackness from carbon, and the iodine that is there is combined with soda to a certain extent.

41959. CHAIRMAN.—The first thing is, that the weed burnt in a lump produces a sort of thing like a black stone?—Yes. All these salts fuse together.

41960. That is the kelp?—Yes.

41961. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Yes, but there are two ways of selling it, either as solid or as ashes. It may be sold either one way or the other. They have resorted to selling it as ashes wherever it is desirable to prove that there is no admixture whatever.

41962. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—That is what I was coming to. If it is turned into the ash form it would be very easy to run it through a sieve or something to get rid of the stones?—Yes. The stones could be detected very easily, but they put sand in, too, and that would also go through the sieve.

41963. CHAIRMAN.—What is the difference in the process by which is the one case that black lump is produced and in the other case ashes?—The one is hard burnt. The ashes are fused. Greater heat is used and the potash salts fuse together, go together in a mass.

41964. When you get that lump it seems that greater heat has been used?—Yes.

41965. That is the usual way?—That is the way I have always seen the kelp; in lump form.

CHAIRMAN.—I have always seen it in that form.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—They have introduced the other way on the Donegal coast.

41967. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—In that lump do the salts remain?—All the organic matter is burned away by the people. It is converted into gas and goes off into the atmosphere, and only the mineral matter remains behind. If you burn coal, for example, you have your ash, the mineral matter, left behind.

41968. CHAIRMAN.—How are the salts extracted from that lump?—By water. They beat it in a series of tanks. They dissolve the kelp in this water. The various salts have different degrees of solubility. One salt is more soluble in water than another. Sulphate of potash, for example, is the most insoluble salt in the kelp. When this concentrated liquor has got sufficiently concentrated and is allowed to cool, the most insoluble salt crystallises out first. That is the sulphate of potash. Then they evaporate more, and the next crystallisation brings out the soda salts. The third crystallisation brings out the chloride of potash salts, which are more soluble than either of the other two, and remain the longest in solution. Finally, the iodine salts, the most soluble of all remain in the last liquor. That is the process which is followed. It is really on the way that the evaporation is carried out that the cost of production of these salts depend.

41969. If I can be allowed to sum up, what you have told us amounts to this; in the first place, the great supply of iodine now comes from Chili saltpetre?—Yes.

41970. And that supply is so large compared with what can be derived from Irish kelp, that it is not likely that the people who have control of the iodine derived from Chilean saltpetre will ever think it worth their while absolutely to crush out the supply of iodine derived from Irish kelp?—That is my opinion. I think they are not likely. At one time I thought that they might do it.

41971. Therefore it is probable that there will continue to be a sort of market for Irish kelp?—Yes.

41972. But so far as price is concerned that can only be tested by the erection of a factory in Ireland?—The creation of competition can only be effected in that way, by having some other works either here or elsewhere.

41973. And, of course, anybody erecting such a factory would have to face the fact that the price of the finished article must necessarily be governed by factors which they cannot control themselves?—Yes, starting works is a speculation; I think a very great speculation.

41974. Mr. KAVANAGH.—We have to look to all these industries for a certain purpose; would you say that there is a future in the kelp industry?—I would say that it ought to be a source of income still, but if they are not taking it in some places at present it is a bad sign. Whether that is to get the price down it is impossible to say. It may be that those people who are manufacturing find that even at 23 it does not pay them.

41975. You are not very hopeful of the future of the demand for iodine?—I am not very hopeful in this way, that there is only one factory. It is completely in their hands. They regulate the price, but I really don't know sufficient about the profits that there may be in the manufacture of the article with prices as they are at present to give an opinion. They may make a very good profit out of it. That is a thing I could not say very much about.

41976. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You are not able to say that purchasing good kelp at 23 a ton affords a fair prospect of making profit?—I am not in a position to say that.

41977. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Apparently the only serious risk in starting a factory on the Irish coast from your evidence would be that these gentlemen in Scotland who now take the kelp might be put out of the market?—They might.

41978. The danger is not that those who control the general iodine industry would take any offence at this?—I should think not.

41979. CHAIRMAN.—Even if the Scotchmen were put out of the market you would not be in a worse position than now.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Only this: you should be prepared in future to take the kelp yourself?—Yes, and you should take it from all parts of Ireland, too, and then the question of transit comes in, and you will find it would be very much cheaper to get kelp over to Glasgow from many parts of Ireland than to another spot in Ireland. That is the general rule you will find. It is cheaper to have it transhipped from all parts of Ireland to Glasgow than it would be to get it from various parts of Ireland to some other port in which you might be working.

June 11, 1907.

Mr. W.
Harrington.

41980. CHAIRMAN.—If your object is to maintain the price for the birch along the west coast there is no particular reason why the factory must be in Ireland?—There is no reason, but it would be better to have it in Ireland, but the site for it would require to be selected with a view to taking into consideration the question of transit.

41981. If as you say the cost would be so much less to take logs from various parts of Ireland to places in Scotland rather than to collect it at certain places on the Irish coast, it would be perfectly feasible to have an Irish-controlled factory in Scotland?—Of course it would. In making that statement as to the cheaper transit to Glasgow I was thinking of the fact that the facilities would not be so great around the Irish coast.

41982. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—The ultimate product is not at all bulky?—The log is not a bulky thing. It is a very heavy thing.

Mr. J. L.
Piper.

41983. CHAIRMAN.—I think you are adviser in forestry to the Estates Commissioners?—Informally I am, but my regular position is chief of the mapping and surveying department. I do any technical aspect forestry business which happens to come before the Estates Commissioners.

41984. You have had great experience in Ceylon?—I was sent by the Government of India for a year to Ceylon, but I had an experience of twenty years in India and a training of three years in the French National Forestry College. I have been interested in the question of afforestation in Ireland since the 1905 Parliamentary Committee, for which I procured some evidence, and during the last few years, since I joined the Land Commission, I have had opportunities of studying this question as affected by the Land Purchase Acts.

41985. You have been good enough to prepare some notes for us, which perhaps you might go through?—I have prepared these at the request of the Estates Commissioners and not specially for this Commission, but I sent them on to the Commission thinking that these might be points as to which you might wish to question me. The main points are the destruction of timber on tenanted holdings, the acquisition of waste lands for afforestation, the purchase of existing plantations in order to save them from destruction, and the ways and means of carrying out these objects.

41986. Will you develop that?—(Witness, reading from memorandum.)—The reservation to and the management by the State for purposes of forestry or in general interests of moor, mountain and bog lands, not required for pasturage and agriculture in Ireland, is a necessity if the land is to be economically utilized. Because—(a.) There are immense tracts of such land.

41987. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—That means moor mountain and bogland?—Yes.

41988. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Not required for pasturage?—Not required for pasturage.

41989. CHAIRMAN.—Where are those immense tracts?—I will bring that out a little more presently. (Reading memorandum.)—(b.) The best, if not the only use to which much of the "waste" land can be applied is the production of timber, or of minor forest products such as cures for the fishing industry.

41990. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—I have understood that the owners have practically lost their value altogether now for the fishing industry?—I had it recently on good authority from an official in the Congested Districts Board, though I am not personally qualified to speak on that special point. A few years ago owners commanded a high price. In evidence given before a previous Parliamentary Committee it was stated that owners could be most profitably grown. I think in a recent pamphlet issued by the Department of Agriculture they bring out a high profit for owners, whatever destination they are intended for.

41991. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—They are used for baskets in the fishing industry?—There is an enormous number of baskets used in the fishing industry, for lobster pots, fishing baskets, and so forth.

41992. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Are you aware that a great number of acres of owners have gone out of cultivation because there was no demand for them?—I was not aware of it.

41993. If you could get a really good supply, as we understand there is along the Galway coast, and burn that out, the cost of the transit of what I may call the ultimate product to Glasgow would be very small?—That would not matter so much, but I don't suppose that any part of the coast of Ireland would produce sufficient logs to keep a factory going, and if you start works you must keep them going all the year. It would not do to work them spasmodically. It may be that Patersons require all the logs they can get to keep their works going. That is a point that must be considered. If you start works you must get a sufficient supply of material to keep them going, because spasmodic work won't do.

41994. CHAIRMAN.—There might not be enough material to keep Patersons' works and new Irish works going at the same time?—There might not be.

Mr. J. L. PIPER examined.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—It is a fact.

41995. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It is a fact that there are several factories in Scotland where they manufacture these year after year; you are aware of that?—No.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—They manufacture these also into the baskets that Mr. Piper refers to. Thousands and thousands are used in the fishing industry.

Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—I understand that they have introduced this wood crates, and that baskets won't pay.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—There are official baskets stamped to contain a certain capacity.

41996. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONOVAN.—For Post Office purposes, such baskets are used for the parcel post, and so forth?—There is a very large trade in them, but I have not the figures for that. (Witness reading from memorandum.)—In the third place, (c.) It is accepted, as the result of various Government and Parliamentary Commissions of Inquiry, that forests, properly managed under the conditions as to soil and climate which obtain generally in Ireland, are in themselves a sound financial investment, apart from many economic advantages derivable from their existence. While, in the case of turf bogs of large extent, it is very doubtful whether reclamation for agriculture can be really economically effected without State aid or intervention.

41997. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That is to say you are not doubtful about it?—Yes.

41998. To whom does the profit accrue?—The profit from the plantations?

41999. From the economical management of plantations?—We have practically no scientifically managed woodlands in this country. I am speaking of the evidence given before Parliamentary and other Commissions mainly as affecting forests in other countries which are scientifically managed.

42000. That is a very general statement, of course, which we may take upon your authority. Can you tell me the countries in which it is of proved economic advantage?—In France, where I studied; Germany, Holland, Belgium, and Denmark; Denmark and Belgium perhaps as much as any. (Witness reading from memorandum.)—Fourthly (d), the State is generally the only proprietor who can afford to incur the initial high cost of planting or reclamation on an extensive scale; who can afford to wait until the woods, etc., begin to yield interest on the capital invested; and who, above all, perhaps, is in a position to secure that continuity in the system of management which, in the case of forestry at least, is a condition essential to success.

42001. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—You have said it is doubtful if reclamation for agriculture can be really economically effected without State aid or intervention?—Reclamation of turf bogs.

42002. CHAIRMAN.—When you talk about State intervention there you mean State loss?—Yes.

42003. If the State wishes to turn the bogs into reclaimed agricultural areas, that can be done, but only at a great loss of public money; on the other hand, there would be much less loss if the State were to acquire these bogs for the purpose of planting?—Or at any rate not more. The Bog Commission in

June 11, 1905.

Mr. J. L.
Page.

5510 estimated that in any event the State would have to arrange for passage over the bogs in order to get in any necessary lime or other manures which the bogs required.

5513. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Do you make the distinction between the two that the one requires State intervention and the other does not, because you also say that the two of them, both turf bogs and afforestation, require State aid and intervention?—Yes, but I subsequently draw a distinction between the two.

5515. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is it your object to show that planting with trees is economic, and that reclamation for agricultural purposes involves necessarily a loss?—No. That is not my object. I say that on many waste lands the most economic method of utilizing the soil is by afforestation—lands of very poor quality, which perhaps let at sixpence or less an acre.

5516. What you mean is that there are some lands of such a quality that the best use for them is afforestation rather than to attempt reclamation for agricultural purposes?—Yes. In the case of extensive turf bogs I make out that in order to reclaim them some State aid is required, and the means of applying some sort of State control such as is adopted in Denmark and Schleswig Holstein.

5517. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Is turf bog not suitable for afforestation?—It is not. (Witness, reading memorandum).—These considerations have, no doubt, all along applied. But, concurrently with the operation of the Land Purchase Acts, and especially in connection with the working of the Act of 1903, the question has become of more immediate interest and importance.

5518. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Is not it a fact that underlying turf bogs we find a great quantity of timber that apparently grew there?—In many places that is so.

5519. How is that explained?—There are various theories as to the origin of the bogs. I don't think it has ever been satisfactorily proved how they arose. That timber was there at one time in many parts of the country is undoubted. It is dug up every day.

5520. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Does not it follow either that the trees grow on the bogland or that the bog has grown after the trees died down?—I think it necessarily follows.

5521. One of these two things happened?—I don't see any other alternative.

5522. You adopt the second, and say the bog would not stand timber?—The bog need not have been so deep at that time. The climate may have changed considerably.

5523. Mr. STURTEVANT.—Do you think the irrigation of the bog destroyed the timber or some other means?—I have never really formed any conclusion. So much has been written on the subject, and there have been so many varying statements, mostly dogmatic, on the subject that I don't know what to think about it. No doubt the bog grows in many places at present by the growth of the bog mosses. Very often the wettest portion of a bog is the highest portion.

5524. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Did you ever have the experience of trying to grow Scotch fir on a bog?—It has been tried a great deal in Ireland, and a great deal under more unfavourable conditions in North Germany, and the conclusion I bring out later on is that on deep bogs it can never be grown with success unless the bogs are previously drained and manured, which would be very expensive.

5525. Mr. STURTEVANT.—Have you formed any idea as to whether the Irish forests which remain as we see in these bogs were destroyed by fire: have you seen charred roots?—Yes, but whether the charring was posterior or anterior to deep bog formation I cannot say. Some of it seems recent to me. I think that the more destruction of the timber in historic times may have resulted in a greater off-rush of water from the hills, which certainly would have increased the growth of the bog below.

5526. CHAIRMAN.—How do you mean—the off-rush of water from the hills?—In consequence of the denudation of the slopes. There may also have been a change of climate.

5527. Would the planting have helped to keep up the water?—Tree-growth keeps it up enormously; so much so that waterworks, richman's areas, like those of Liverpool, are clothed with fir, and the French Government for many years has spent large sums each

year in acquiring pasture lands in order to plant them up and cure the torrents which carry down the debris and stones to the lowlands underneath.

5528. Is it that the roots have increased the amount of water absorbed?—The fallen leaves take up an immense amount of water. Then the living leaves stop a certain amount of the rainfall; but the main effect is by the roots, and the layer of decaying vegetable matter which sometimes is several feet deep and takes up an immense quantity of water. (Witness, reading memorandum).—It estimates tracts of waste land are to be acquired for afforestation, fairly free from adverse rights and at a reasonable cost, it is almost a case of "now or never." For once allow such land to be transferred from large owners to numerous small peasant proprietors with divergent interests, the difficulty of securing sufficiently large and conveniently situated tracts, of arranging, constructing, or transferring rights of pasturage and passage, will be enormously increased, apart altogether from the increased price which, in such circumstances, would probably have to be paid for the land. Ireland was formerly well wooded and noted for the excellence of the timber supplies. In comparison with great timber-producing countries, such as Russia and Norway, it is very favourably circumstanced for the practice of economic forestry. Potentially one of the best timber-growing countries, it now is, with the exception of Portugal, the least wooded of Europe. The Land Act of 1903 has aggravated the position. For, not merely has the working of the Act led directly to the rapid, reckless, and imprudent felling of trees, and to the permanent destruction of woodland crops throughout the country, but the very existence of woods in present conditions interferes with and retards the transfer of tenanted or unenclosed lands.

5529. Is it in your knowledge that since the Act of 1903 a great many trees have been cut down?—Yes.

5530. They have been cut down since the Act of 1903 faster than they were before?—That is not within my own knowledge, because in order to have personal knowledge of that I must have been travelling extensively through the country both before and after; but it is beyond doubt in my mind, from my own personal observation, from the trade journals, from the public Press, and from my interviews with timber merchants, land agents, vendors of land, and other persons.

5531. Of course the purchase of land has been very much accelerated since the Act of 1903. I suppose that in what it really means: it really means that more land has changed hands, and then more trees have been cut down?—Yes, or that vendors are preparing to sell their estates, and that in order to do that they get rid of a commodity.

5532. Is it the vendors who have been cutting down the trees?—As well as the tenant purchasers.

5533. Which to the greater extent?—The tenant purchaser, naturally, cuts down single trees, small belts, and wind screens. You would not get much else on his land. The vendors have plantations, and they not infrequently fell the outlying portions which they do not keep with their domains.

5534. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—We have heard a great deal of evidence in which small holders petitioned that they should have trees set down to make these little protection belts for their residences?—Tree-felling is by no means universally the practice. It has been increasing, but there are distinct evidences of a revival of tree-planting in certain parts. My argument is, taking the whole country, the amount of timber in Ireland is being enormously reduced, and in many parts of the country the tenant purchasers have cut down timber extensively, and in some parts almost cleared the country of timber.

5535. Mr. KAYMAN.—Could you give us the name of a county in which that has occurred?—I don't suggest that they have cleared a whole county.

5536. I would like to hear the name of any one county?—On the Wallace property in the North, in Down, for instance; in Armagh there have been clearances; in various counties in which I have been myself. I don't know whether you mean any very large geographical area. I do not suggest that any very large proportion of a county has been cleared of timber. I do say that, from my own information, and from reports, which I cannot cite unfortunately, which have reached me,

June 11, 1897. There have been extensive clearances of timber. You can see this, within my own knowledge, in certain parts of Limerick, for instance, and in Wicklow, and the West of Ireland. I have contributed myself to this destruction by arranging for unsuitable sales of timber for the Estates Commissioners.

42327. You say that the vendors have cut timber before selling: is that within your knowledge?—It is.

42328. Do you mean woods and plantations or timber in the hedge-rows?—No; woods also.

42329. That would be in their own hands?—That would be in their own hands, the reason being that the Land Act has passed woods by. Woodlands are a special class of property, and the Land Act does not deal with them, except under section 4, which is a section, as you know, empowering the vesting of woods in trustees for certain purposes, and in order to get rid of their estate vendors sell woods for falling. Only the day before yesterday a very large owner of land in Ireland was sent to me by one of the Commissioners, with the following tale. He was selling an estate with a large lime wood adjoining a river. He had come to terms with his tenants as to everything with the exception of this wood. It was a wood about 1½ miles long in a strip. He wished the tenants to buy it; they refused. He said he would cut down the wood, as it was a ruin of his estate which he practically had to get rid of, and could not protect it himself. The tenants declined to allow that to be done if they were to purchase their holdings, whereupon he came to the Estates Commissioners for advice. It was arranged he should apply to the Commissioners to purchase his wood. It was his representative arranged that. There are many cases of the kind. I am in a peculiarly advantageous position for knowing what is being done, inasmuch as the map of every estate being sold in Ireland passes under my eye. It is part of my official duty to satisfy myself that the map exhibits the vendor's estate, what he is retaining, what he is selling, what he wants the Estates Commissioners to purchase, what he wants to sell and re-purchase, and, incidentally, it is necessary to ask the vendor's representatives certain questions.

42330. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—With what object do the Commissioners going to buy this piece of wood—do maintain it or fill the timber?—If an estate is offered it may contain certain plantations, and they may have to buy the whole. They are not a Forestry Department and can only buy a tract of land in order to re-sell with a prospect of profit, or, at any rate, without prospect of loss; and these woods, as I bring out further on, are a source of embarrassment.

42331. CHAIRMAN.—Embarrassment to the Estates Commissioners, in this sense, that they have no staff to deal with them or protect them?—They can only purchase them to sell them, strictly speaking.

42332. It would be always an embarrassment to a forestry department to have a whole lot of little strips of wood stuck about all over the country?—It would.

42333. When you speak of the economic advantage derivable from forests, I suppose, you have in your mind great contiguous tracts of forest?—Large tracts.

42334. All lying together?—As far as possible together.

42335. Tracts which would lend themselves to be dealt with in blocks?—Yes.

42336. But you could never make money out of merely having a wood here and a wood there—could you?—No.

42337. It would take an immense staff to look after them?—Yes, unless the small woods were required in the interests of the tenants themselves, as very often they are, in which case the tenant purchases themselves could assist in the preservation of the woods.

42338. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—By a committee of tenants?—Yes, or by individual tenants.

42339. Sir FRANCIS asked you whether you were aware that tenants asked to have shelter beds constructed on their farms?—Yes, I am aware of that.

42340. At Buncrana, tenants also suggested to the Commission that a certain zone should be planted and held by trustees for the tenants; has that come under your notice?—No, but they have so often requested the landlord to plant for shelter that I can easily imagine that they would ask to have it done.

CHAIRMAN.—How would these be looked after?

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—I think the idea was that they would look after these common pastures pretty much as they would look after grazing in common.

CHAIRMAN.—They would all belong to the tenants, and a committee of the tenants would all decide what was to be done with them, when planted, when to cut down, and so forth.

Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Quite so. In such circumstances the immediate control would be under the committee. There might be general direction and advice from the forestry department.

CHAIRMAN.—Then the forestry department would be only a dead and alive sort of thing that might at times be consulted by a committee that was anxious to learn.

42341. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Take, for instance, the case that has been mentioned of a forest that is a white elephant in the hands of the Estates Commissioners, might they not arrange to convey that forest to trustees for tenants to be managed for them?—I don't think trustees in the ordinary sense of the word can manage forests, because very technical and expert knowledge is required. The only justification for doing anything with a forest is that you do not know the producing capacity of the soil, and ninety-nine people out of one hundred who would meddle with a plantation in good order would learn the productive capacity.

42342. I should say a committee of the tenants rather than trustees?—That is not the principle adopted by other Governments, notably the French and the German.

42343. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Is it not the custom in France that manage it?—Yes; they hold all their forests and get the profits, but the control is more strictly vested in the State.

42344. That is practically what the Bishop is saying?—He said that they should be managed by trustees.

42345. That answers to the communes?—The trustees in France are a highly-trained body of officers.

42346. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—The suggestion put before us was that the possession would belong to the tenants who had been in the habit of grazing on that mountain side, and that the tenants would agree to keep off their cattle and sheep to whatever extent was necessary for the maintenance of the forest or the tree plantation, and that then the property in it and the whole management of it should be controlled by a committee representing the tenants.

42347. CHAIRMAN.—Would it be possible to have these things vested in the County Councils; to allow the County Councils to have a forestry committee to look after them?—I don't approve of that for the same reason that the French Government cannot allow the local interests, which are of varying nature, to interfere with such an essentially conservative business as forestry management; and, while the enjoyment of the woods and their proprietorship are, of course, vested in the local bodies which are encouraged to acquire woods, the management is strictly vested in a State governing body which is competent to manage.

42348. The commune represents, as I understood, as far as possible, our County Council?—It would be a group of communes like the Conseil d'Arrondissement or the Grand Général.

42349. Have we got anything analogous to the commune?—It is a self-contained village community.

42350. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—It holds property in common?—Yes.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—That is the essential part of it.

42351. CHAIRMAN.—They hold those woods?—Yes.

42352. The management is taken out of their hands entirely?—Yes.

42353. And is conducted by a State Department?—Yes.

42354. The State pays its expenses out of the forests, and any profits that may be over go to the commune—is that it?—Yes. There may be very few expenses; sometimes hardly any.

42355. That may be a system which is possible in France; I doubt very much whether it would be possible here?—We have not any such thing.

42356. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—Government interference in the affairs of individuals is carried much further on the Continent, especially in France, than we know it in these countries?—That is so.

June 11, 1907.

Mr. J. E.
Page.

42057. CHAIRMAN.—The system that they have in France is not at all the system that the Bishop is suggesting?—No.

42058. CHAIRMAN.—The essential characteristic of the French system is that the management is not vested in the local body, but in the State body?—Yes.

42059. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The regulations in Ireland certainly were that the local body should be in the main control, but not without some direction from a central authority; apparently in France, from your statement, the central authority takes the whole thing?—Yes, but meaning as far as possible the wishes previously expressed of the commons.

42060. CHAIRMAN.—What would happen if the local body wished to do one thing and the State Department disapproved; would you suggest that in that case the Department should have the right of preventing the local body who really owned the thing from carrying out their desire?

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—The question belongs to a regular series of such difficulties that might arise, but I do not think that it would be imprudent to suggest to adjust them. Now and then it might be inconvenient to let the local body have its way?—Yes. Generally it would not be. There might be mistakes.

42061. Sir FRANCIS MOWAT.—Could you get any expert knowledge out of a representative committee of small farmers; the knowledge required to conduct economically a plantation; how would they know at what time and at what age to cut timber?—So far as I have any knowledge of the subject, I don't think it would be possible to expect them to manage properly. It is quite out of the question. Besides, there is an enormous amount of evidence already recorded pointing in the same direction.

42062. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Are you aware that the late Dr. Lysons interested himself very much in afforestation?—Yes. I procured some of his information for him.

42063. Are you aware that in some instances he got the small farmers, or his agent got some of them, under the direction of a skilled forester, to put in the trees?—I did not remember that.

42064. That was done?—I don't know anything about it myself, but as bearing on the remarks that have been made, I think what was conveyed to the occupiers who were interested was this, that if from time to time they had the visits of the skilled forester it would not be so difficult for them to look after the plants; I do not know whether that is so or not, but that I am sure was the drift of the message given to the persons interested. (Witness, reading from memorandum).—Apart from the woods included in residential demesnes and outlying woods of considerable extent which might, without undue cost, be preserved by vendors for sporting or other purposes, many of the lands already planted are so small in area or so situated that they could not be effectually protected from injury, still less preserved for game, once the surrounding tenanted or grass lands are sold. A wood of this class may be on rough mountain land, or on shallow or partly drained bog, and might with advantage to the neighbourhood or to the country as a whole be preserved or added to, where there are any person or public body directly interested in safeguarding it. Experience has already shown that, in the case of estates purchased by the Land Commission under Section 6 of the Act, the increased value of the estate after re-arrangement of the holdings and the subdivision of unwanted lands may allow of woods of this kind (originally, perhaps, cheaply purchased) being re-sold at a low figure or retained by the nation almost free of cost on the purchase amount. Possibly, on the other hand, such a wood might properly disappear, having regard to its prospective value or to the superior requirements of agriculture in the vicinity. There is, however, nobody, no agency nor State Department to decide or to advise with authority. The wood, being an incumbrance to the vendor who can find no purchaser save a timber-merchant, consequently disappears, often while the trees are still immature. The draining of the soil and the planting may have been paid for by a loan from public funds. I learned of one case where, a dispute having occurred between the vendor and his tenants (who had signed purchase-agreements) regarding the rights

to the timber, vendor and tenants in competition removed and sold all the available trees with the utmost despatch. Once the fee-simple of the land is vested in a tenant-purchaser, the latter has full right to fell and sell timber growing on the land, unless, in so doing, he lowers unduly the value of the land as security for the purchase money advanced. Yet, even if the Land Commission has the right to interfere, it lacks the power to prevent. Consequently, trees on purchased holdings are being felled at an increasingly rapid rate, and often in sheer ignorance of the real value of the timber for purposes of shelter, construction, &c. The presence of outlying scattered woods may, so long as the trees remain undisturbed, prevent a landlord from selling his estate to the Land Commission, which, while empowered to hold woodlands temporarily, has no means of managing or even of protecting them for the time being. Cases have arisen where the Land Commission, after purchasing an estate for resale, has found the existing woods a source of embarrassment. If this be so while estates are, in the main, sold under arrangements made directly between vendor and tenant, in what manner may a large increase of sales to the Land Commission be expected to affect the question? If compulsory sale should be sanctioned by law I assume that practically all the untenanted land of poor quality in each estate affected must be purchased, not merely such land as might immediately serve for the enlargement of holdings or in schemes of migration. While the difficulty of dealing with existing woods or plantations would be increased proportionately to the grossly wooded areas purchased by the Land Commission, the means for acquiring extensive tracts of mountain and heath land, suited to planting, would be immensely facilitated owing to the opportunities afforded by the re-arrangement of the estates prior to resale to the tenants. No such opportunities on so great a scale are ever likely to recur. Neglect to take advantage of, or at least to study them with a view to the creation of national forest estates may be considered in connection with the report of the Departmental (Board of Agriculture) Committee, appointed in 1902, on British forestry. The report brought out that, for reasons given, "The great area of waste lands in these islands, which might be afforested and with regard to which such valuable evidence has been held, thus become a matter of grave national concern."

42065. CHAIRMAN.—We are always hearing about these great areas of waste lands. I don't know where they exist. I have never seen them. Whenever we go we are told that such and such a mountain is very valuable for grazing, and that they want it for a sheep mountain or something else. Where you are able to find these great tracts of mountain that are suitable for nothing else except planting puzzles me. I have never seen any.

Mr. SUTHERLAND.—If they are useless for anything else how would you grow timber?—You may see timber on the rock of Toulon planted with crowbars where even grass did not grow. You see the Italian and other Governments, whose countries suffer from the denudation of the hillsides, undertaking almost heroic work to remedy this defect.

42066. CHAIRMAN.—Am not I right in thinking that wherever we have been we have never come across waste land?

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—We have seen no land which was not being turned to some account, but I think it has also been put before the Commission in its country sessions that there are tracts of mountain sides that would be better under plantations than devoted to their present use?—It was so stated.

42067. CHAIRMAN.—Have we been in any place where there were mountains, bogs, and so on, in the hands of the landlords which were not asked for by tenants for such purposes as individual or communal grazing or forestry?

42070. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—I am sure you are perfectly right, that each individual purchaser would be interested in getting an addition to his grazing tract, whether that was the best use of that particular mountain side or not. The evidence we got was from people of a representative capacity, saying that taking the tenants as a whole it would be better for them not to have individual rights for grazing purposes on a particular tract, but that it would be better on the whole to have those tracts put under timber. That is my impression.

42071. CHAIRMAN.—I am sure you are perfectly right, that each individual purchaser would be interested in getting an addition to his grazing tract, whether that was the best use of that particular mountain side or not. The evidence we got was from people of a representative capacity, saying that taking the tenants as a whole it would be better for them not to have individual rights for grazing purposes on a particular tract, but that it would be better on the whole to have those tracts put under timber. That is my impression.

June 11, 1907.

Mr J. L.
Figg.

42071. CHAIRMAN.—If you have a very strong feeling in a district that such and such a mountain side of obtained would to a very valuable grazing tract, would it be possible to take that permanently away from the people and to plant it without creating friction?—My inquiries lead me to think that there would be difficulty in getting them to agree freely to give up these mountain slopes. On the other hand, it has been given in evidence, for instance, by Father Flannery, a parish priest in Galway—

42072. But he was an enthusiast!—Yes, but it has been given in evidence before your own Commission by Mr. Fingleton and by Lord Castletown.

42073. Mr. STURTELL.—Did you read evidence from any tenant from whom the land would be taken?—No.

42074. Mr. STURTELL.—I think not. I don't think that his lordship can quote an instance of that either.

42075. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—My recollection is that it has not been carried further than this, that there was some view to be made out of some of this mountain land; that none of it is desirable, but that nevertheless it could be got from the tenant practically at a very small price for timber purposes!—That is what I suggest here.

42076. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—That is my recollection also. My recollection is that in two forms the project was put before us. It was suggested almost universally that on most farms there was an angle of land not turned to much account, which could be planted as a shelter belt; and it was also suggested to us in several places—that is a different project—that there were tracts of mountain side which to do with the tenant seemed to have put with his own property, but which on a fair view of the case would be better taken up at some compensation from the tenant and allocated for planting!—Yes.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Would it come to this: if the Congested Districts Board, for instance, buy an estate and some grass land to increase the holdings of the small holders they might make it portion of their bargain with the small holders that they should have no claim to the less valuable mountain sides, and that that should be withdrawn for the general purposes of planting.

Mr. KAVANAGH.—But there are probably existing rights already on it which they could not withdraw.

Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—You might say to a man: "You have four acres here and the right of feeding on the hillside; you will get five acres somewhere else and give up your hillside feeding."

Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—Quite so. I know a property in Donegal which has been offered to the Congested Districts Board. On that property there are thousands of acres of mountain in the hands of the owner. It would be very important for the owners to have that mountain given over to them on a sale, and it ought to be in the main, but you could reserve hundreds of acres also for planting.

42077. CHAIRMAN.—In your opinion is the Congested Districts Board a proper body to do work of that kind: would not you want a regular forestry department?—I suggest that there should be no new Government Department, but that the Department of Agriculture should take up if possible the acquisition of waste lands, or at any rate the prevention of needless forest waste in Ireland, as it was intended to do under the constituting Act. One of the objects of the formation was to deal with the forest question. Unfortunately under the terms of the Act it can only act experimentally or for the purpose of instruction, and its funds are very limited and its legal power of holding land insufficient. My proposal is that it should take over the existing plantations, which ought to be preserved permanently in the public interest, and, as far as ways and means exist during the transfer of land from vendors to tenants, especially in the West of Ireland, it should endeavour to secure waste lands, if any such became available, with a view to planting them hereafter. That is really the gist of my proposal.

42078. Mr. STURTELL.—That existing plantations should be acquired by a public department!—That is it, after due inquiry, it is thought that they should be permanently maintained. A great many

obviously must be strapped up with the grass lands (*Witnes, cutting from mountain*).—The land which might become available for tree-planting on an extensive scale may, perhaps, be conveniently classed as under:—(a) Mountain and heath land; (b) Turf bogs; (c) Narrow ravines, steep slopes, and rocky or poor land in sub-ventral or low-lying districts generally. The mountain and heath lands, comprising in all some 2½ million acres, are the tracts naturally best suited to economic forestry.

42080. CHAIRMAN.—You don't suggest that the 2½ million acres is all waste land?—No. Draining, before planting, is usually unnecessary or inexpensive; fencing and general protection may be economically arranged for wherever blocks of land sufficiently large and with suitable boundaries can be secured; while conditions as to soil and climate are certainly not less favourable than in other European countries where forestry for very many years has been successfully practised on similar lands.

42081. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—Do you know any European country in which extensive plantations have been economically grown and dealt with in turf bog?

I do not, but I am talking of mountain and heath lands. I know of some woods that have been economically grown on shallow turf bog, especially shallow mountain turf bog, and I know of one deep bog that has been successfully planted, but whether successfully from the financial point of view I cannot say. In view of the large amount sunk in manuring and draining before the trees were planted financial success cannot be certain. (*Witnes, cutting from mountain*)

—The slopes of ravines, and also rocky land, are often commonly suited to profitable tree-planting. There is no reason to doubt that mountain land in Ireland at one time comprised vast tracts of natural forest whose restoration would greatly improve the natural drainage of the whole country. Whatever measure of fact may underlie the various theories as to the origin of the bogs in Ireland, it will scarcely be questioned that the destruction of the forests in historic times, and especially the denudation of the hillsides and ravines, must have aggravated the condition of the bogs and of low-lying lands, and that re-afforestation could not fail in inducing a contrary effect and in improving generally the arterial drainage of the country. The total area of turf bog is returned at about 1,100,000 acres—that is excluding 303,000 acres of marsh, and presumably all shallow bog or "heaven mountain land"—of which (according to a statement prepared in the office of the Revenue Commissioners) only 200,000 acres are unimpaired. Of the total area, about six-sevenths are, according to the Report of the Bog Commissioners, 1859, comprised between two straight lines drawn from North Head to Sligo, and from Wicklow Head to Galway. Large areas of turf bog might, no doubt, be made available for planting. But planting on a bog deeper than three or four feet is generally hazardous culturally and uneconomical financially. Timber of good quality, but usually of the cheaper kinds, can, no doubt, be grown on deep bog which has been drained and to some extent gravelled or otherwise improved. Yet in bog land generally, the acidity and inertness of the bog substance and the absence of mineral nutrients must be overcome before plants which strike deep into the soil can thrive. The draining and manuring necessary to secure this condition called in forestry, an original capital debt as heavy that financial profit can usually not be expected. But I think the weightiest argument against any attempt to afforest on a large scale Irish turf bogs is that these latter, unlike high mountain and moor lands, may possibly hereafter be profitably reclaimed for pasture and field crops. The Bog Commissioners stated (2nd Report, 1854), in connection with improvements undertaken on the Dillan and French Estates, that "the red bogs may all be reduced to tracts of profitable pasture and meadow, and in many cases may be applied to the produce of oats and potatoes, if ground can be had from the under strata, as at Angharoe." In their final Report (1854) the Commissioners said: "From all the above data we can confidently pronounce that the extent of Peat Soil in Ireland exceeds two millions eight hundred and thirty thousand English acres, of which we have shown at least 1,070,000 to consist of flat red bog, all of which, according to the opinions above detailed, might be converted to the general purposes of agriculture; the

remaining 1,255,000 acres form the covering of mountains, of which a very large proportion might be improved at a small expense, for pasture, or still more beneficially applied to the purposes of plantation; we wish, indeed, it were possible for our Reports to fix the attention of their proprietors upon this subject, so connected with the interests of the British Empire."

42032. CHAIRMAN.—This is 1814?—From 1820 to 1814. It was a very exhaustive report.

42033. They thought the bog on the mountain side could be improved for agriculture at a small cost?—It still more beneficially planted up. At that time the wonderful results obtained cheaply in improving waste land (as in Luxembourg and Holland) by the use of lime and artificial manures, such as kainit and basic slag, were unknown. With intensive cultivation and quick returns on capital outlay the turf bogs may hereafter pay well in agriculture where success in forestry must at best be doubtful or mediocre. With extensive mountain tracts, then, naturally adapted to forest culture, I would rule out as unsuited to tree-planting all bogs of large extent or more than a few feet deep.

42034. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—What effect has the use of lime on land?—It increases the quantity of free nitrogen in the soil. It is like humus and those plants, peas and so forth, which are put in as a manure.

42035. It forms a surface mould?—Yes. It seems impossible to forecast, with any approach to accuracy, what total area of mountain or moorland might be acquired for forestry purposes. The agricultural returns afford no precise indications. Thus, of the two and a quarter million acres of "barren mountain land" in Ireland, it appears that (excluding such mountain as may be included in "demesne") only 354,000 acres are untenanted. In addition, there are 285,000 acres of untenanted land, with poor low valuation ranging up to 2s. 6d. per acre, some or most of which is probably spontaneous pasture. I think it unreasonable to suppose that waste land for forestry purposes should be sought for only amongst these 640,000 acres of untenanted land. Land of this class may be tenanted one year and untenanted the next. The poor low valuation indicates to some extent the present utility of these tracts. The valuation of the entire area of 354,000 acres of untenanted mountain is, on the average, 5s. 6d. per acre; that of the 285,000 acres valued up to 2s. 6d. is, all round, only 5s. 4d. an acre. In evidence which applied as the West generally, from West Cork to Donegal, given before the Select Committee on Forestry, 1887, it was stated that barren areas could be acquired for about 10s. an acre, and that the people—in Committee at least—would cheerfully acquiesce in reservation for forestry purposes on account of the betterment of their holdings and the provision of forest produce which tree-planting would secure. The result of my own inquiries certainly does not accord with that evidence, that is as to the cheerful acquiescence of the people. Yet there are two outstanding propositions in point. First, that the real value of much of this land to the peasantry must often be very small, and compensation for disturbance, if paid in cash, would be correspondingly low. And, secondly, that many people may be expected to relinquish willingly their rights, enabling them to pasture a few animals over large tracts, in exchange for a very much smaller area of good land near to their homesteads. Compulsory sale, the division of untenanted pasture lands, and the re-arrangement of holdings would give opportunities of effecting such exchanges. It does not appear unreasonable to assume that tracts of suitable waste land, much in excess of the area which it would be practicable to plant within, say, fifty years, might be acquired at a low cost per acre. There are at present, according to the agricultural returns, 301,000 acres of woods and plantations, of which 95,000 acres are classed as untenanted, the balance (or 206,000 acres) being presumably included for the most part in demesne land. Assuming that all these woods ought to be permanently maintained—a very improbable contingency—and that it were desired to increase the area—percentage of forested land in Ireland to the figure for the United Kingdom (four per cent.), the total wooded area should be increased from 301,000 to 775,000 acres. Apart from mountain and bog, there are, as noted above, some 285,000 acres of untenanted land, not suited

for the enlargement of uneconomic holdings, of which the total valuation is only £10,135. The whole of this might possibly be acquired for a payment of from £100,000 to £200,000. In countries such as Germany, or even in some states like Belgium, where the value of forests in rural and national economy is well understood by those in authority who are supported by informed public opinion, opportunities such as these of adding to the national forest wealth would not be lightly disregarded. The probability seems to be that more land than could in reason be utilized in forestry might be secured on easy terms. Thus in poor estates in the West, where the sporting rights may bring in one-half or more of the total rental, a proprietor might eagerly embrace any opportunity of parting with mountain, provided he retained the sporting rights, which in many cases are much enhanced in value as a result of planting. The acquisition of large blocks of land is desirable in connection with economical forest management, but this object might be seriously interfered with were it possible to deal only with the mountain waste included in one or in several disconnected estates in the same neighbourhood. Yet, while large tracts were generally desirable for forestry, I think it would, for various reasons, be well to commence any great scheme of planting with smaller areas, say, of about 500 acres, situated not far from villages or supplies of labour. The Select Committee of the House of Commons on Forestry reported (1887), amongst other matters, that strong evidence had been given before them that large tracts of land, especially in Scotland and Ireland, might be planted with advantage. The Committee referred to the considerable social and economic advantages which, apart from any immediate pecuniary benefits, would arise from an extensive system of planting, especially on the West side of Ireland, and dwelt upon the importance of tree-planting as an accessory to agriculture. The Departmental Committee, appointed by the Board of Agriculture in 1902 to report upon British forestry, did not specially extend its inquiries to Ireland. It reported that, on the highest authority, there is in the United Kingdom a very large area of waste, heath and rough pasture, or land out of cultivation, amounting in all to 21,000,000 acres on a large proportion of which forestry could be profitably undertaken; that, even with indifferent management, excellent returns had often been obtained from plantations formed on land of little or no value for any other purpose; that the possibilities of forestry as a means of furnishing remunerative labour to an increased rural population are great; and that the proper utilisation of waste lands had become a matter of grave national concern. At that time the present rapid disintegration of landed interests in Ireland has not commenced, and the Committee did "not feel justified in urging the Government to embark forthwith upon any general scheme of State forests under present circumstances." The general importance of the question has since been further recognized by regular grants from the Treasury for aiding instruction in forestry. With the exception of a few woods vested in the Department of Agriculture, section 4 of the Land Act of 1903 has proved inoperative in preserving woods and plantations or in the setting apart of lands for planting.

42036. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What woods are vested in the Department of Agriculture?—Those are the woods on the Arundale Estate, which was purchased, whether for a cash payment or under the Land Acts I cannot say. Then there are the Coal-green woods, in the County Wexford, on a Plan of Campaign estate, and there is one other lot of woods I think, in the County Wexford.

42037. What acreage do the three woods run to altogether?—A couple of thousand acres or less. In 1904 the Agricultural Department represented to the Estates Commissioners that it had previously been debarred from exercising its functions as the master of forestry because suitable land was almost entirely in private hands, but that the Act of 1893 had fundamentally changed the conditions. Arrangements were accordingly made whereby the Department should be given the option of purchasing any woods or lands suited to planting, offered for sale to the Commissioners. But nothing was done owing, not to lack of opportunity to acquire suitable lands, but to want of funds, and also, perhaps, to the fact that the Department is unprovided with any proper agency for dealing with the forestry question. Under the

June 11, 1907.
No. 7. L.
Page.

June 11, 1907. Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act of 1899, County Councils are empowered to make a rate for forestry purposes, but only a few of the counties appear to have moved in the matter.

42098. Is there any definition in the Act of what forestry purposes means?—Yes. It includes aiding and developing forestry. I believe that it gives them very wide powers. By the Act of 1899 constituting the Congested Districts Board, the Board may take such steps as they may deem fit for aiding and developing forestry. In the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act the term is rural industries, including forestry. Under section 6 of the constituting Act of 1899 the Agricultural Department may cause to be made, or aid in making, experiments, collect or aid in collecting such information, as they may think important, for the purposes of agriculture and other rural industries. These include the aiding, improving, and developing of forestry and any industries connected with and subservient thereto; and shall also include the aiding and facilitating of the carriage and distribution of produce.

42099. Mr. KAVANAGH.—But the rate they can levy is limited to a very small amount?—They practically have no funds. It is the County Councils that can levy. The Councils are only allowed to raise a maximum rate of a penny for forestry and other purposes, and most of that is already hypothecated to other purposes.

42100. The forestry is included in the penny in the £1—Yes.

42101. That practically means that it is impossible for the County Councils to do anything in the way of forestry?—That is what I believe. (Witness, reading from memorandum).—In this case also funds were wanting, apart from other difficulties, and practically nothing has been done. In November, 1905, the Department of Agriculture drew the attention of County Committees of Agriculture to "the present wholesale destruction of timber trees in many districts of Ireland, where trees are being cut down without regard to their present usefulness for shelter or ornament, or to their value as timber when felled"; and the Committee were invited to co-operate in "arresting the general policy of destruction," and to encourage tree-planting. Such circulars can be of little avail. The evil cannot be treated by putting up warning notices at the constabulary barracks.

Section 4 of the Act of 1903 presumably aimed at the reservation, for management in public or general interests, of portions of estates which can no more economically be utilised for forestry and other purposes named than by being sold to individuals. In this aim, so far as forestry is concerned, not merely has the Act signally failed—it has operated in the directly contrary direction. The actions of vendors, tenant purchasers, and of the Land Commission all tend to destroy or lessen the timber resources, already so inadequate, of the country. On the other hand, the administrative department, expressly constituted by the Legislature to deal with the subject, that is to say the Agricultural Department, practically acknowledges its impotence to remedy the evils which it deplures, or to profit by the openings given by the Land Act.

42102. Most Rev. Dr. O'DONNELL.—What is the source of this impotence—want of money?—Want of money and want of legal authority. They cannot, I believe, even legally hold lands as trustees under the Land Act. I don't give that as a fact, but I have very good reason for believing it. County Councils cannot hold as trustees for the purposes of the Land Act of 1903, though Rural District Councils can hold land for laborers' cottages. (Witness, reading from memorandum).—The western counties offer the greatest scope both for the protection of existing woodlands and for the reservation to the State of lands for afforestation. In my notes I give a tabular statement comparing the areas of wood, bog, mountain, and of unimproved land valued at 2s. 6d. an acre or less, for each of the administrative counties comprising congested electoral divisions, with the corresponding areas for the whole of

Ireland. These counties contain nearly one-third of the total wooded area in Ireland, and of "mountain" about 70 per cent. of the area classed as such, while they include over 85 per cent. of the unimproved land valued at not more than 2s. 6d. Assuming that a scheme of compulsory purchase, such as that proposed to the Commission* were applied, the State would become the proprietor of practically all the waste lands in these districts. No re-arrangement of agricultural holdings could possibly deal fairly with all these lands; while, on the other hand, until the holdings were in course of re-arrangement, it would be impossible to say definitely what lands are or are not "waste," or where and how much of the waste is best suited to profitable tree-planting. All that seems possible to predict is that, in the course of such a scheme of land-purchase, the agency responsible for distributing the funds will find itself compelled to set apart extensive tracts of waste moor and mountain, and that the lands so set apart will ultimately prove more or less suited to economic forestry according as timely measures are taken, while the general land-settlement of the country is still in progress, to inspect and classify them, and to arrange suitable boundaries as well as the rights of user to which they must remain subject. Very possibly larger areas might be set apart than the State itself could reasonably expect ever to plant up. That would be, I think, no reason why the State should not temporarily hold excess waste lands for subsequent disposal. The permanent consecration of existing woods and the afforestation of waste lands on a large scale in the congested district counties would seem to involve something more than the "improvement" of estates purchased by the Land Commission, as contemplated by the Act of 1903. But forestry, according to the Commissioners of Inquiry on the subject, would improve generally the condition of the West, and was within the purview of the work of the Congested Districts Board. The agency administering compulsory purchase in the congested districts could, no doubt, if properly equipped, undertake new planting and manage existing woods. But such an agency could only look on the side of the forest question in Ireland. It would not hinder the rapid and reckless destruction of timber in other parts of the country. In the case of direct sales of land, vendors are now constantly selling to tenants lands some of which are, economically, surplus lands for the tenants' purposes, and are thus perpetuating and increasing the difficulties in the way of properly utilizing such lands. The obstacles at present in the way of preserving existing woods, surrounded by newly-purchased tenanted lands, are not experienced in the West only. And in other parts there are extensive mountain tracts, some of which are known to be suited to planting, as in Tipperary (58,000 acres) and Tyrone (103,000 acres). Again, any comprehensive scheme of State forestry must be permanent in its nature, and could only mature financially a century or two hence, when the problem of congestion will have been forgotten. From the financial standpoint, money carefully invested in forestry may offer as good security as (in the opinion of some it offers security better than) an investment secured on agricultural land. But it is quite certain that advances made by the State for purposes of economic forestry (i.e., forestry so regulated as to give the highest possible net return in money on the capital invested) could not be recovered with the certainty and regularity expected in the case of Irish land-purchase advances. In my notes I deal with the cost of forestry operations, but my observations are, perhaps, too technical to read now. Having regard to the foregoing considerations, I think that a special Forestry Board should be incorporated with the Department of Agriculture and Technical Industries. The Department would take over (and plant up as funds permitted) surplus Crown waste lands previously ascertained to be suitable for afforestation, as well as any plantations purchased under the Act (by the Estate Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board) which ought to be permanently preserved.

42103. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What are the surplus Crown and waste lands?—I am making the recommendation that the Department purchase them. They have to be got rid of somehow. The Department should also be in a position to purchase waste land or formed woods direct from vendors of land.

* See Appendix to Third Report of the Commission [Ct. 2434, 1907], Questions 15602 to 15610.

June 11, 1907.

Mr. J. L.
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It would further be charged with the management of Crown woods now existing, as well as with such educational or arboreal work as is now performed under various Government authorities. Amongst its more important duties would be the collection and diffusion of useful information bearing upon tree-planting in relation to agriculture and the raising of stock, as is done by the Forestry Bureau of the United States Government. The Department, in short, would deal with forestry as part of the general question of land-settlement, with a view to improve agriculture and develop industries by assisting in arboriculture on farms and by creating a national forest property. I am not competent to deal with the financial questions which would be involved in the carrying into effect of the scheme of forest work outlined above. Funds to a certain extensive amount should be earmarked for new plantings for instructional purposes. Perhaps the Crown quit rents and the sums for which they are released under the Land Act might be so utilized. It is understood that practically the whole of the large sums received as Quit Rents have been applied by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests in the acquisition or development of Crown property in England. The main duty of the Agricultural Department in regard to forestry would, as I conceive, be to acquire suitable lands while it is still possible to acquire them at all. The advantages claimed for national forestry in Ireland can only be secured if a sufficient area of suitable land is obtained fairly cheaply in advance. And further, if, as seems to be the case, very large tracts of suitable land may be secured very cheaply, money invested in their purchase must be the best possible investment at the present time in any large scheme of national economic forestry. I think the protection of isolated trees or of shelter-belt timber in holdings vested under the Land Purchase Acts should be rendered easier or possible by a change in the law. As affecting the security for the advance, or the real interest of the tenant-purchaser, or the amenities of country life generally, it seems desirable to leave the door open for the present widespread destruction of landscape and other trees. But it may be noted that former law, or the terms on which the tenancy was required to plant or to refrain from cutting timber trees, often operated very harshly. This is particularly so with Ash.

42108. CHAIRMAN.—How would you provide for these isolated trees and shelter belts of timber?—I have not gone into that. It is a most difficult question. The Chief Secretary in an answer given in Parliament the other night said that it was a very difficult question, and should be considered when the Land Act was being amended; but it is generally recognized that you must distinguish between registered and non-registered timber. You cannot interfere with registered timber.

42109. What do you call registered timber?—Timber that has been registered as having been planted by the tenant.

42110. That you cannot interfere with it—I think it is arguable whether you can or can not. If an advance is made on the value of the holding it is made on every concomitant circumstance that is connected with the holding, but I would not like to interfere with it.

42111. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell.—As regards shelter belts on the farms, would you consider such a body as the Parish Committee a good one to encourage the planting of those shelter belts and maintain them?—I am sorry to say I do not. I would like to see it because I prefer those things done as far as possible under local schemes, but with the knowledge and experience that I have gained it would be impossible for me to believe for a moment that it could be permanently successful. There would be a tendency to sacrifice these belts to the needs of the moment or the idiosyncrasy of particular people who thought that they could manage them.

42112. Don't you unduly extol Government interference in these things?—I would much rather not have Government interference in those things if you could, as in other countries, provide popular education whereby the local men could get the requisite knowledge. I fear that that unfortunately is far off in Ireland as regards forestry.

42103. Mr. SUTHERLAND.—Even though you had education there would be a question of self interest coming in compelling those people to cut down trees prematurely?—Yes, and the varying interests of each place which would cut not merely in those being thirty-two forestry departments in Ireland, but as many forestry departments as plantations almost.

42104. There would be a tendency to cut down trees rather than to plant them?—Yes.

42105. Sir FRANCIS MOWATT.—What the Bishop meant by shelter belts are the double hedges, I assume, which the tenant puts up between his holding and the prevailing wind quarter?—Yes.

42106. That is not a sort of forestry that requires much knowledge?—I agree.

42107. Driving down the other day beside Lough Derg we saw a great deal of it?—I don't think it requires much knowledge. The people are quite intelligent enough to plant them.

42108. So far as those go don't you think that the people might be trusted to look after them themselves?—I think they cannot be trusted for the present, because they don't know in many cases the value of the existing belts which the landlords have maintained. Those they are cutting down in many parts of the country. If the value of those shelter belts were well known they would not think of cutting them down.

42109. The next thing I would like to point out is that these little belts must or ought to be on the holdings of the small tenants?—They must.

42110. Within 25 or 30 yards of his house generally?—Yes, if for sheltering the buildings.

42111. You could not ever take that out of his holding, or deal with it and manage it except by the man himself?—Yes.

42112. You might give him a small bonus from the county if he did it well?—Yes.

42113. Forests or plantations to be managed with entire financial success must be of considerable extent?—Yes, generally.

42114. In your proposals in which you contemplate large plantations, are you speaking of anything under 1,000 acres?—Yes. I would consider areas under 1,000 acres, especially where there is an already constituted plantation. In a country like Ireland, where you are so badly off for wood, it depends so much on what neighbouring land there is. If even fifty acres of available waste land were in the vicinity you might extend the area of a plantation and join on to another plantation. I would have any considerable plantation irrespective of the area.

42115. You would consider that desirable, but would you consider that it could be worked financially well?—Not unless it were taken up in connection with others in the neighbourhood.

42116. I understand you to be speaking of the western districts; practically what we call the congested districts. Is not essential for working plantations financially well that there should be a good road to the market?—It is.

42117. If you have your timber on the hillside with a lot of things below you and no road you have really no market at all?—You should have a road or river or other lines of export.

42118. That, of course, immensely limits the amount of land on which afforestation can be carried on with financial success?—I don't quite follow—because there don't happen for the moment to be any roads?

42119. Because, or hypothetically, there are no roads on high mountain tops?—There were no roads on high mountain tops when the French Government took to developing their immense forests. Afterwards they made their roads to get their timber out. I have constructed them myself where no roads existed, and forests which had been of very little value became very valuable.

42120. I am not saying that it cannot be done at all, but, taking Ireland of to-day, you have to allow for expenses, for instance, of carting, of making good roads across bog, and so forth, as portions of the scheme?—Undoubtedly.

42121. That would add considerably to the expenditure and limit a good deal the area which you could effect with advantage?—I don't agree as to the

June 11, 1905.

Mr. J. L.
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limiting the area. It would undoubtedly add to the expenditure. On the other hand, there is every reason to suppose that you would get a greater price for your timber presently, which would more than cover the cost of your roads. Timber is one of the raw commodities of the world of which the price is constantly growing. It has increased twenty per cent. in the twelve years preceding 1902. This is accepted as a truism everywhere in the trade, and by people conversant with the subject, and President Roosevelt mentioned in his speech on forestry, that notwithstanding the tremendous degree in which wood has been supplanted by iron, nevertheless the world's demand for timber is constantly and yearly increasing; so the increased value of the timber might counterbalance that expense.

42119. I only want to draw your attention to that point as to the means of communication with the market. We have had several people before us who say that they have had timber, but practically they found it of no value, because the cost of getting it to market would be far more than the market price which they would get when they got it there. They have not got enough of good, well-grown timber to justify the conversion of the timber to site.

42120. Mr. KAVANAGH.—Would you say that native timber has increased in value twenty per cent. ?—I cannot say that. I happen to know that latterly there has been a very marked rise in connection with the motor industry; for certain classes of hard wood there has been a rise, owing to the demand, for car-

riage bodies, wheels, felloes, hubs, and spokes. There has been an all-round rise of twenty per cent. in England in price of imported timber.

42121. You would not say that there is an increase in native timber?—No. I think, on the contrary, it is decreasing if anything, on the whole.

42122. Mr. SEYMOUR.—The drawback to timber is that you have to wait forty years for your harvest!—Or more for large hard wood, which is one of the best paying markets you could have.

42123. There would be the thinning!—Yes, from the twentieth to the fortieth years you might thin twice; at the twentieth and thirtieth years, and at the fortieth year you could fell, but you could not get much except in larch from your earlier thinning. For your hard wood you would possibly have to wait one hundred years.

42124. Generally speaking, do you consider Ireland an insufficiently wooded country?—If you mean trees dotted about the country, I do not, except in certain portions. It is very much better than Spain or Italy. But from the point of view of woods it is the least in Europe, with one single exception.

42125. Contiguous woods?—Plantations in a line. I think Portugal alone has a lower percentage under woodlands than any other country in Europe. Ireland has only 1·4 per cent.

42126. You pass a great number of trees coming from Limerick to Dublin?—Yes. It is ridiculous to say that Ireland is the most treeless country in Europe. It is not.

The Commission adjourned.

INDEX TO APPENDICES.

APPENDICES.

	Page
Appendix I. —Documents put in by Mr. P. A. MERRAN.	
A. Small Holders in Abbeyfeix, with Acreage and Valuation,	259
B. Untenanted Land on De Vesel Estate,	269
C. Statement showing Condition of Labourers and their Holdings in Abbeyfeix,	270
D. Condition of Houses in a Street in Abbeyfeix,	270
 Appendix II. —STATISTICAL ABSTRACT for County Clare.	
A. Prefatory Note,	271
B. General Statistical Information about County Clare,	271
C. Return showing Population, Area, and Valuation of each Union in County Clare, containing Congested Districts,	272
D. Return showing Population and Valuation in 1891 and 1901 of each Electoral Division Scheduled as Congested,	273
E. Ratio of the Population to Valuation in certain Electoral Divisions,	275
F. Statistics relating to the Number, Acreage, Valuation and Population of various classes of holdings, and to the chief divisions of the Land in County Clare,	276
G. Tables showing the working of the Land Acts in County Clare,	287
H. Local Taxation in County Clare :—	
1. Poor Rate in each Electoral Division in 1881 and 1891,	299
2. County Cess in each Barony in 1891,	301
3. Poor Rates in each Rural District in 1901,	301
4. Poor Rates in each Rural District in 1905,	302
5. Salaries under Public Health Acts,	302
6. Expenditure on Labourers' Cottages,	302
7. Receipts and Expenditure of each District Council and balances of Loans due,	303
8. Particulars of the balances of Loans due by the County Council,	305
9. Particulars of Receipts of County Council,	304
10. Particulars of Expenditure of County Council,	304

APPENDICES.

	Page
I. Number of tenements of one room and number of occupants of each tenement in 1901,	306
J. Ages of persons in each County District,	309
K. Occupations of the people,	310
L. Occupiers of land engaged in other pursuits besides farming,	311
M. Emigration from County Clare, 1851-1906,	311
N. State aided Emigration,	312
O. Agricultural Statistics :—	
1. Extent of land under crops in each Union,	313
2. Produce of crops in each Union,	313
3. Number of Stockholders and quantity of live stock in each Union,	314
4. Quantity of live stock in each year from 1896-1905,	315
5. Number of holdings and extent of land under each crop in each year from 1898-1905,	315
6. Average rates of produce in each year from 1896-1905,	315
7. Proportion of land in each Union under crops,	316
8. Statement as to sties, bails and boars,	316
9. Area under each variety of Potatoes and average rate of produce,	316
10. Bee-keeping statistics,	317
11. Area planted with trees and area cleared in 1905,	317
P. Wages of agricultural labourers in 1905,	317
Q. Information as to Schemes of Department operating in County Clare, 1906,	318
R. Note on Migratory Labourers,	319
S. Statistics of Co-operative Societies :—	
1. Creameries,	320
2. Agricultural Credit Societies,	320
T. Return of Untenanted Land,	321

Appendix III.—Document put in by The O'Connor Don.

Notes of Evidence,	324
--------------------	-----

Appendix IV.—Document put in by Mr. J. L. Pross.

Memorandum on Working of Irish Land Act of 1903, as bearing upon destruction of trees and plantations,	327
--	-----

APPENDICES

APPENDIX L

A 45-yr-old male

DOCUMENTS put in by MR. P. A. MEEHAN in connection with the Evidence given by him before the COMMISSION.

A—Small Holders in Abbeylisk, Queen's County, with their Acreage and Valuation.

—		Area.	Valuation.	—		Area.	Valuation.
—		A. E. F.	E. & E.	—		A. E. F.	E. & E.
BRISTOL.							
1. John Gault, ..	..	8 1 13	1 25 6	1. George Harts, ..	..	4 1 8	8 3 8
2. Edward Day, ..	..	8 2 12	1 18 8	2. Catherine Harts, ..	..	3 3 3	0 15 8
3. Mary Smith, ..	..	1 1 1	1 5 8				
4. Joseph Haskins, ..	..	4 10 17	1 25 0 0	BRISTOL.			
5. Mary Day, ..	..	8 2 24	1 19 0 0	71. Michael Douglas, ..	..	1 2 20	2 16 9
6. John Kelly, ..	..	2 2 2	2 9 0 0	72. Joseph Smith, ..	..	1 3 22	1 9 8
7. Elizabeth Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 4 0 0	73. Edward Kavanagh, ..	..	1 2 24	2 2 8
8. Susan Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	2 12 0 0	74. Thomas Deane, ..	..	0 2 18	2 10 8
9. William Lister, ..	..	1 1 1	1 19 0 0	75. Pat Harkin, ..	..	0 2 18	1 18 0 0
10. James Day, ..	..	2 2 2	1 19 0 0	76. John Thomas, ..	..	1 2 8	1 18 0 0
11. Edward Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	1 19 0 0	77. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
12. Mary Gough, ..	..	2 2 2	1 19 0 0	78. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
BRISTOL.							
1. Michael Gault, ..	..	2 1 8	2 10 8	79. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
2. James Harts, ..	..	2 1 8	1 0 8	80. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
3. Pat Gault, ..	..	4 3 18		81. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
BRISTOL.							
71. James Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	82. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
72. Joseph Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	83. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
73. John Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	84. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
74. Edward Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	85. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
75. Thomas Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	86. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
76. John Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	87. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
77. John Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	88. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
78. John Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	89. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
79. John Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	90. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
80. John Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	91. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
81. John Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	92. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
82. John Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	93. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
83. John Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	94. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
84. John Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	95. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
85. John Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	96. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
86. John Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	97. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
87. John Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	98. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
88. John Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	99. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
89. John Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0	100. John Thomas, ..	..	0 2 18	0 18 0 0
90. John Ryan, ..	..	2 2 2	0 15 0				

* All have balconies, except no. 1

† Four small farmers; remainder labourers—at least work for part of the year.
‡ Twelve small farmers.

B.—Description of Untenanted Land on the De Vries Estate.

Townland.	Area in Statute Measures.	Value of Land. £—s—d.	Townland.	Area in Statute Measures.	Value of Land. £—s—d.
Yolm,	22	2 0	Tullone,	12	3 12
Strath Galloway,	3	3 10	Do.,	1	1 12
Island,	147	3 3	Do.,	2	0 10
Kilgarnock,	10	3 0	Do.,	2	3 10
Do.,	21	3 27	Do.,	4	1 17
Ennager,	6	3 0	Do.,	20	8 8
Knocknacree,	10	0 20	Do.,	3	3 18
Do.,	10	0 9	Do.,	1	3 14
Do.,	10	0 11	Do.,	13	1 37
Do.,	7	0 8	Do.,	63	0 14
Do.,	7	0 8	Do.,	8	1 20
Do.,	4	0 37	Do.,	14	1 10
Kilgarnock,	70	2 10	Do.,	8	3 18
Do.,	4	1 12	Do.,	14	2 8
Do.,	3	1 19	Do.,	69	3 18
Do.,	3	1 11	Do.,	812	2 5
Do.,	4	1 10	Do.,	34	0 10
Do.,	6	1 14	Do.,	10	5 1

C.—STATEMENT showing condition of Labourers and their Holdings in Abbeyfeix.

APPENDIX I.

Labourer.	Number in Family.	Area.	Number of Apartments.	Location.	Remarks.
1.	8	3 perches.	2 small ones.	Vicent De Voeck.	Public sanitary arrangements put up by landlord.
2.	30	3 "	3 "	do.	
3.	4	3 "	2 "	do.	
4.	3 adults	3 "	2 "	do.	
5.	5	3 "	2 "	do.	
6.	5	3 "	2 "	do.	
7.	5	3 "	2 "	do.	
8.	5	3 "	2 "	do.	
9.	4 adults	NH, no yard.	2 "	do.	
10.	5	NH, a yard.	2 "	do.	
11.	5	NH, a yard.	2 "	do.	
12.	5	NH	2 small apartments, underground.	Desert Gass.	All these are tenants in the same house formerly occupied by one family. There is no sanitary accommodation of any kind whatsoever, all refuse must be carried through street door extend to yard.
13.	3	NH	1 apartment, underground.	do.	
14.	3	NH	1 apartment, first floor.	do.	
15.	5	NH	1 apartment, first floor, also 1 two-room, second floor, second floor.	do.	
16.	2	NH	1 room.	do.	
17.	1	NH	1 room.	do.	
18.	2	NH	Two	do.	
19.	3	NH	Two	do.	
20.	5 group of 5 persons girls 18 to 20.	NH	Two	do.	
21.	2	NH	Two	do.	
22.	2	NH	Two	do.	
23.	2	NH	Two	do.	
24.	2	NH	Two	do.	
25.	12 group of 12 persons girls 18 to 20.	4 parties, garden.	4 small ones.	do.	
26.	5	NH	2	do.	
27.	5	NH	2	do.	
28.	5	NH	2	do.	
29.	5	NH	2	do.	
30.	5	NH	2	do.	
31.	5	NH	2	do.	
32.	5	NH	2	do.	
33.	5	NH	2	do.	
34.	5	NH	2	do.	
35.	5	NH	2	do.	
36.	5	NH	2	do.	
37.	5	NH	2	do.	
38.	5	NH	2	do.	
39.	5	NH	2	do.	
40.	5	NH	2	do.	
41.	5	NH	2	do.	
42.	5	NH	2	do.	
43.	5	NH	2	do.	
44.	5	NH	2	do.	
45.	5	NH	2	do.	
46.	5	NH	2	do.	
47.	5	NH	2	do.	
48.	5	NH	2	do.	
49.	5	NH	2	do.	
50.	5	NH	2	do.	
51.	5	NH	2	do.	
52.	5	NH	2	do.	
53.	5	NH	2	do.	
54.	5	NH	2	do.	
55.	5	NH	2	do.	
56.	5	NH	2	do.	
57.	5	NH	2	do.	
58.	5	NH	2	do.	
59.	5	NH	2	do.	
60.	5	NH	2	do.	
61.	5	NH	2	do.	
62.	5	NH	2	do.	
63.	5	NH	2	do.	
64.	5	NH	2	do.	
65.	5	NH	2	do.	
66.	5	NH	2	do.	
67.	5	NH	2	do.	
68.	5	NH	2	do.	
69.	5	NH	2	do.	
70.	5	NH	2	do.	
71.	5	NH	2	do.	
72.	5	NH	2	do.	
73.	5	NH	2	do.	
74.	5	NH	2	do.	
75.	5	NH	2	do.	
76.	5	NH	2	do.	
77.	5	NH	2	do.	
78.	5	NH	2	do.	
79.	5	NH	2	do.	
80.	5	NH	2	do.	
81.	5	NH	2	do.	
82.	5	NH	2	do.	
83.	5	NH	2	do.	
84.	5	NH	2	do.	
85.	5	NH	2	do.	
86.	5	NH	2	do.	
87.	5	NH	2	do.	
88.	5	NH	2	do.	
89.	5	NH	2	do.	
90.	5	NH	2	do.	
91.	5	NH	2	do.	
92.	5	NH	2	do.	
93.	5	NH	2	do.	
94.	5	NH	2	do.	
95.	5	NH	2	do.	
96.	5	NH	2	do.	
97.	5	NH	2	do.	
98.	5	NH	2	do.	
99.	5	NH	2	do.	
100.	5	NH	2	do.	

D.—Continuation of a Street in Abbeyfeix.

The street of New Row in Abbeyfeix contains twelve tenement houses, each house contains four apartments, two on the ground floor and two on first floor. Ten of these houses are occupied by two families in each; and two houses with two families only. One of these ground floors is used as an ash-house, and there are two empty half houses. Some shales are off, and the rendering in some places has fallen from the status; the rafters were never lathed or plastered; the snow can get into the rooms; the laths are in a terrible condition. There are no front doors to some of the houses and the jambs are rotted away, as are the doors; they are patched with beam boxes, and some of them have only one hinge, and the walls, in some cases, never get even a coat of whitewash. The trees that the landlord built some dry privies immediately at back-doors to every three houses, four privies in all, but as the yards are not enclosed, and as access was obtained through a lane that runs at the back they became a frightful nuisance, they had to be pulled down by the occupier in whose yard they were placed. When the drainage was connected with the main sewerage a small pipe was run the full length, with a primitive little trap. The whole affair got stopped in about one month and is there still in the same condition. The windows are iron casings, permanent fixtures that cannot be opened, and the glass is broken in some of them; the light to room upstairs is admitted through what is known as a skylight, and the glass is broken in some of them. About the middle of this street dwells a fishmonger, which adds to the sanitation. The water that washes the clothes is thrown in the street channel and the channel is broken up in places.

The landlord is Mr. John Waldron, Solicitor. He lives himself in a place he gave the title of Roselbrook. What a contrast!

APPENDIX II.

APPENDIX II.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT—CO. CLARE.

A.—PREFATORY NOTE.

Special statistics relating to County Clare have been prepared for the Commission by the Commissioner of Valuation (see pp. 273-5) and the Registrar-General (see pp. 276-96), and certain returns have been furnished at the request of the Commission by the Local Government Board and the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. Other information about County Clare is available in different publications, e.g., the Census Returns, the Annual Agricultural Statistics, the Annual Reports of the Irish Land Commission, the Estates Commissioners, etc.

All this statistical information has been brought together in the following pages, added to, and collated; and explanatory notes have been added where required (e.g., pp. 273, 276, 298, 312, and 319) with a view of forming a compact Statistical Abstract of the chief points of interest in County Clare, which may prove of assistance to the Commissioners during their sittings in County Clare, and subsequently be helpful to readers of the evidence.

WALTER O'CALLAN, *Secretary.*

18th May, 1907.

B.—GENERAL STATISTICAL INFORMATION, TAKEN FROM THE CENSUS REPORT, 1901, COUNTY CLARE BOOK [Ch. 1009-IV. 1902, pp. vii. and viii.]

The County of Clare covers an area of 552,389 statute acres, or 4·1 per cent. of the total area of the country.

The number of persons in the County of Clare, according to the Census, was—in 1851, 143,502, in 1891, 126,244, and according to the recent Census, 112,324 (57,386 Males and 54,948 Females), or 11·02 per cent. less than in 1851.

The number of distinct Families in the County at the time of the late enumeration was 21,398, the average number of persons in a family being thus 5·2; and the number of Inhabited Houses was 21,008, showing an average of 5·3 persons to each house. In calculating these averages, the Special inmates of Public Institutions have been omitted.

The following Statement shows, by County Districts, as constituted under the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1886, the number of persons in 1851 and 1901: and the increase or decrease during the decade:—

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	POPULATION.		INCREASE OR DECREASE BETWEEN 1851 AND 1901.		
	1851.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.	Rate per cent.
Ennis Urban,	5,400	5,802	—	402	87
Kilrush Urban,	4,000	4,570	570	—	91
Ballyvaughan Rural,	4,287	3,856	—	431	100
Corvulla Rural,	5,500	4,802	—	698	127
Ennis Rural,	15,513	14,670	—	843	100
Doonbeg Rural,	9,010	10,000	990	—	101
Killybeg Rural,	10,000	9,300	—	700	107
Kilrush Rural,	17,128	16,500	—	628	100
Immerick No. 1 Rural,	8,000	7,800	—	200	101
Scarriff Rural,	11,715	10,400	—	1,315	100
Tulla Rural,	11,800	9,800	—	2,000	100
Total,	126,244	112,324	—	13,920	11·02

From the foregoing Statement it will be observed that there was an increase of 2·1 per cent. in Kilrush Urban and a decrease in Ennis Urban and in each of the Rural Districts. The highest percentage of decrease took place in Tulla Rural, viz., 16·9; and the lowest in Ennis Rural, viz., 10·0 per cent.

Towns having, in 1901, a population of 2,000 and upwards are classified as Civic Areas.

The County contains two such Areas, viz., Ennis and Kilrush Urban Districts. In 1851 the population of these Areas amounted to 9,400; in 1901 it was 9,272, showing an increase of 283 persons, or 3·0 per cent.; in the rural portions of the County the decrease was 11·7 per cent.

APPENDIX II.

The following Statement shows the Educational status of the Inhabitants of the County of Clare in 1881 and 1901, in so far as relates to the degree of elementary education relative to which inquiry was made on the Census Forms, the numbers on which the percentages are based being those for the County as constituted in the respective years:—

DEGREE OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.	Rate per cent. of Total Population.	
	1881.	1901.
Read and Write.	609	519
Read only.	77	45
Illiterate.	373	314
Total.	1059	978

From the above it will be seen that whereas, according to the Returns of 1881, only 65.0 per cent. of the Inhabitants, at all ages, could "read and write," in 1901, 74.0 per cent. could do so; that the percentage of the population who could "read only" in 1881 was 7.7, and in 1901, 4.5; and that the percentage of the "illiterate" fell from 27.3 in 1881 to 21.5 in 1901.

In 1881, 19.2 per cent. of the inhabitants aged five years and upwards were illiterate (17.8 per cent. of the males, and 20.6 of the females); in 1901 the percentage was but 15.2 (12.6 of the males, and 18.6 of the females).

The number of children attending school in the County of Clare, according to the Census of 1881 (week ending 30th May), was 20,805, or 45.7 per cent. of persons aged 5 years and under 20 in the County as then constituted; in 1901 the number returned (for week ending 11th May) was 18,114, or 49.0 per cent. of the persons aged 5 and under 20.

In 1881 the number of persons in the County of Clare (as then constituted) returned as Sick, on the night of the Census, was 1,469, or one in every 83 of the population; in 1901 the number so returned was 1,103, or one in every 103 of the population; of the latter number 403 were at their own homes, and 499 were in hospital.

The number of persons returned in 1881 as receiving relief under the Poor Law System was 4,378, or one in every 29 of the population; of this number 1,682 were inmates of Workhouses, and 2,616 were in receipt of outdoor relief; in 1901 the number returned was 3,994, or one in every 28 of the population; 1,545 of these being in the Workhouses, and 2,449 on outdoor relief.

According to the returns of the Registrar-General, the number of marriages registered in the County of Clare during the ten years ending 31st March, 1901, was 4,039, equal to an average annual rate of 3.4 per 1,000 of the population. The number registered in the whole of Ireland during the same period affords an annual average rate of 4.8 per 1,000.

The number of Births registered in the County during the ten years was 24,716, affording an average annual rate of 20.7 per 1,000 of the population, the average yearly rate for the whole of Ireland during the same period being 23.0 per 1,000.

The Deaths registered during the decennium amounted to 18,347, being equal to an average annual rate of 15.5 per 1,000; the corresponding rate for the whole of Ireland was 18.2 per 1,000.

The number of Emigrants during the ten years ending 31st March, 1901, who stated that they were from the County of Clare, amounted to 18,031 (8,052 males and 10,009 females); the number for the decade ending 31st March, 1891, was 33,421; for that ending 31st March, 1881, 18,796; for that ending with March, 1871, 31,667; and for that ending with March, 1861, 50,083, making a total of 150,968 for the fifty years.

G.—Barrens showing the Population, Area, Valuation, and Average Valuation per head of Population in the one Poor Law Union in the County of Clare containing a Congested District.

(Supplied by the Congested Districts Board.)

COUNTY.	TOWNS.	Population.			Area.			Valuation.			Average Valuation per Head of Population, assuming 40 Cows as 1871.		
		Consolidated portion of Union.	Non-consolidated portion of Union.	Total.	Consolidated portion of Union.	Non-consolidated portion of Union.	Total.	Consolidated portion of Union.	Non-consolidated portion of Union.	Total.	In Entire Union.	In Consolidated Districts.	In Non-consolidated Districts.
CLARE.	Scoutz.	308	12,850	13,158	4,126	21,528	25,654	2	8	10	2 10 0	1 10 1	2 11 1

D.—LIST OF ELECTORAL DIVISIONS scheduled as "Congested" in the County of Clare, showing Ratio of Population to Valuation in respect of the years 1891 and 1901, also Poor Rates for the year ended 31st March, 1901.*

APPENDIX II.

Where the average valuation per head was, in 1901, not less than 30s the name of the Electoral Division is printed in italics.

Union and Electoral Division.	Population, 1891.	Valuation, 1891.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1891.	Population, 1901.	Valuation, 1901.	Amount of Valuation per head of Population, 1901.	Poor Rates for year ended 31st March, 1901.	
							On Agricultural Land.	On Other Rateable Lands.
UNION OF SCARFEY.		£	£ s. d.		£	£ s. d.	Is. 6d. 4.	Is. 6d. 4.
Mountshannon, ..	304	£10	1 11 4	305	£10	1 15 1	2 0	4 0
Total, ..	305	£10	1 11 4	305	£10	1 15 1	-	-
Total in respect of the Congested Districts in County Clare, ..	304	£10	1 11 4	305	£10	1 15 1	-	-

* This return is taken from a similar return for all Counties containing Congested Districts, which was prepared by the Congested Districts Board, and published in the Appendix to the First Report of the Commission, pp. 286 et seq.

E.—RETURN SHOWING THE RATIO OF POPULATION TO VALUATION IN CERTAIN ELECTORAL DIVISIONS IN COUNTY CLARE, AND OTHER PARTICULARS.

(Specially prepared for the Commission.)

EXPLANATORY NOTE.

This return (prepared by the Commissioner of Valuation) shows the total rateable valuation (1901), the population (1901), and the average valuation per head of population in each Electoral Division in Co. Clare:—

- (1.) Where that average is under 30s.
- (2.) Where that average is between 30s. and 50s., but is brought below 30s. by the exclusion from the dividend (i.e. the total rateable valuation of the electoral division) of all ratings valued at over £50. In these cases the average and valuation of each excluded area is given.
- (3.) Where the electoral division, though scheduled as congested, does not come within either of the above classes.

The total number of electoral divisions in Clare is 155, of which 150 are rural and 5 urban. The total number of electoral divisions comprised in this return is 18, all rural. Of these, 17 are not scheduled as congested and are distinguished by an asterisk. Though the average valuation of several electoral divisions in Co. Clare was below 30s. in 1891, they were not scheduled because their total population did not form one-fifth of the population of the county. Under the Local Government Act of 1898 the boundaries of Co. Galway were altered and the electoral division of Mountshannon (which being in Co. Galway in 1891 had been scheduled) was transferred to County Clare.

Of the 18 electoral divisions comprised in this return, 6 are not below 30s. in point of average valuation per head of population. Of these 6 divisions, 5 are not below 30s. normally, but are when the total valuation of all ratings above £50 is excluded, and 1 is above 30s. even after these exclusions. The name of this division (Mountshannon) is printed in italics.

RURAL DISTRICT OF BALLYVAUGHAN.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1901.	Population, 1901.	Average Valuation per head of Population.	Average Valuation per head of Population in cases annually between 30s. and 50s. when all Valuations over £50 are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED HOLDINGS.		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	
Total of Rural District,	50,375 5 0	3,350	15 5 4				

RURAL DISTRICT OF COROFIN.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1901.	Popula- tion, (Census, 1901.)	Average Valuation per head of Population under 50s.	Average Valuation per head of Population of those normally between 50s. and 100s. when all Valuations over 200 are excluded.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED HOLDINGS.		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
Total of Rural District.	£ s. d. 20,800 12 0	4,300	£ s. d. 4 11	£ s. d. 5 11	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	

RURAL DISTRICT OF ENNIS.

*Farnoe, . . .	528 4 0	613	1 0 7	—	—	—	
*Kintore, . . .	772 2 0	615	1 5 9	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	65,070 12 0	12,415	5 20 2				
Total of Rural District.	66,300 12 0	13,073	5 25 12				

RURAL DISTRICT OF ENNISTIMON.

*Cloonsilla, . . .	973 16 0	551	1 0 10	—	—	—	
*Tortoyla, . . .	506 8 0	443	1 0 8	—	—	—	
*Ennistemon, . . .	4,072 2 0	2,569	1 22 8	1 5 11	104 2 37 96 1 54 102 2 12 28 1 52 12 0 8	25 0 0 33 12 6 312 6 9 113 9 0 233 0 8	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	54,798 2 0	15,701	3 0 1				
Total of Rural District.	58,870 2 0	18,270	3 2 2				

RURAL DISTRICT OF KILLADYSERT.

*Gillmore, . . .	517 2 0	505	1 3 4	—	—	—	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	26,702 8 0	8,370	3 20 2				
Total of Rural District.	27,219 0 0	8,875	3 10 11				

RURAL DISTRICT OF KILRUSH.

*Oaherewilly, . . .	798 11 0	429	1 6 11	—	—	—	
*Brumalky, . . .	1,240 8 6	1,226	1 7 8	—	—	—	
*Elnagh, . . .	1,230 18 6	793	1 5 8	—	—	—	
*Glenmore, . . .	1,264 21 6	873	1 30 0	—	—	—	
*Easdoonahilly, . . .	1,086 12 0	944	1 2 5	—	—	—	
*Orough, . . .	1,000 11 0	606	1 20 7	1 7 4	255 2 28 255 1 54 251 2 34 244 2 2 232 2 25 185 1 21 112 0 14	75 12 0 25 2 0 56 18 0 23 30 0 62 12 6 220 0 0	
*Doonbeg, . . .	5,000 0 0	1,200	4 12 10	1 8 30			
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	58,078 8 0	17,707	3 0 11				
Total of Rural District.	63,078 14 0	18,907	3 10 0				

RURAL DISTRICT OF LIMERICK, No. 2.

ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Rateable Valuation, 1906.	Popula- tion, (1901).	Average Valuation per Soul of Population under 20.	Average Valuation per Soul of Population in each electoral division, 20, and for whom all valuations over 20 are included.	AREA AND VALUATION OF EXCLUDED EIGHTHES.		REMARKS.
					Area.	Valuation.	
Total of Rural District.	£ 255 15 0	7,605	£ 3 3		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	

RURAL DISTRICT OF SCARRIFF.

*Cahermurphy.	200 17 0	305	£ 6 10 0	—	—	—	
*Cork.	506 10 0	365	£ 1 10 0	1 0 0	50 0 0	51 0 0	
*Mounthammon.	497 17 0	310	£ 1 17 1				
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	£ 5,187 0 0	5,495	£ 9 15 0				
Total of Rural District.	£ 5,787 0 0	10,465	£ 5 15 0				

RURAL DISTRICT OF TULLA.

*Kilbenny.	1,127 11 0	660	£ 1 5 11	—	—	—	
*Longben.	792 5 0	475	£ 1 12 1	1 1 0	1,126 0 0	75 0 0	
Total of all other Elec- toral Divisions.	£ 2,248 0 0	5,495	£ 4 10 10				
Total of Rural District.	£ 3,613 4 0	6,954	£ 5 0 4				
TOTAL OF RURAL DIS- TRICTS IN COUNTY.	£ 11,187 15 0	128,025	£ 8 6 0				

F.—STATISTICS RELATING TO THE NUMBER, ACREAGE, VALUATION AND POPULATION OF VARIOUS CLASSES OF HOLDINGS IN COUNTY CLARE.

Specially prepared for the Commission.

EXPLANATORY NOTE.

The information contained in the Tables I. IV. has been specially prepared for the Commission by the Registrar-General from the office summaries of the Census of 1901. The importance of the figures and their interpretation were touched upon in a memorandum submitted by the Secretary to the Commission, and printed in the Appendix to the First Report of the Commission, pp. 351 *et seq.* It will suffice to remark here that, though nominally these tables are returns of "holdings," they are really returns of landholders, for, if one man has half-a-dozen farms in the same county, he is returned as having a single holding of their combined valuation. It is obvious that, so far as statistics are concerned, these returns, being actually though not nominally returns of landholders, show more clearly the size of the problem requiring treatment than a return of holdings would—e.g., a man has in County Clare six holdings valued at £2, £4, £8, £10, £20, and £40. A return of holdings would in this case apparently suggest that there were at least three holdings needing enlargement; whilst the present returns more clearly indicate the situation by showing only one holding of £88 valuation. As regards the size of the remedial material that might be made available for relieving congestion, these returns might, however, mislead—e.g., in the case taken above the returns would suggest that there was in County Clare one holding of £88 valuation that possibly might be secured for the enlargement of small holdings; whilst

in point of fact there are six holdings of varying size scattered over the county.

The interpretation of the figures becomes more complicated when they are examined not for the whole of a county, but for the comparatively small area of an electoral division—the present unit of congestion. In these returns where one man has several holdings in County Clare, but in different electoral divisions, or has one holding which runs into two electoral divisions, the entire is allocated to the division containing the holding or the part of the holding of highest valuation; hence the figures in these returns do not represent the actual state of things in each electoral division, as they may include in each division land situated in other electoral divisions (of County Clare), and may exclude land geographically belonging to the division itself. Thus the area, population, or valuation shown for an electoral division might be larger or smaller than the actual area, population, or valuation of that division. Adjustments could have been made rectifying this, but they would have immensely complicated matters. Moreover, the returns would then have been based in part on holdings rather than on landholders, and this would, for the reason shown above, have exaggerated the size of the problem. Consequently the Commission, having considered the relative advantages of adjusted and unadjusted returns of holdings and landholders, decided that as regards most uses the unadjusted returns of landholders by electoral divisions would be the most useful.

I.—TABLE showing Total Number of Holdings and Number of each of Eleven Classes, averaged according to Valuation, in the County of Clare

APPENDIX II.

TOWN AND ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Total Number of Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS, AND NUMBER OF EACH CLASS.										
		Not exceeding 1A.	Above 1A and not exceeding 2A.	Above 2A and not exceeding 3A.	Above 3A and not exceeding 4A.	Above 4A and not exceeding 5A.	Above 5A and not exceeding 6A.	Above 6A and not exceeding 7A.	Above 7A and not exceeding 8A.	Above 8A and not exceeding 10A.	Above 10A and not exceeding 15A.	Above 15A and not exceeding 20A.
BARNSTAPLE.												
Abbot,	125	16	31	32	26	19	6	1	19	1	5	—
Adair,	22	4	11	6	4	2	6	4	5	6	—	—
Adams,	37	5	9	2	2	7	3	5	6	3	—	—
Adams,	41	6	11	2	13	6	2	1	5	1	—	—
Adams,	37	30	13	15	4	6	6	1	5	3	3	—
Adams,	88	18	11	7	13	6	—	1	1	1	—	—
Adams,	66	14	6	15	3	4	6	6	6	4	—	—
Adams,	45	9	5	6	3	6	6	6	6	6	—	—
Adams,	40	5	2	2	5	5	10	5	6	6	1	1
Adams,	54	4	6	16	7	10	1	6	6	—	—	—
Adams,	55	12	2	—	—	5	5	1	6	1	1	5
Total of Non-Consolidated Electoral Divisions.	421	114	60	60	35	70	45	35	56	56	5	6
Total of Electoral Divisions.	421	114	60	60	35	70	45	35	56	56	5	6
CHURCH.												
Adams,	21	5	30	2	6	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Adams,	43	6	30	17	15	34	1	5	6	2	—	—
Adams,	120	54	30	6	16	21	6	6	36	4	2	—
Adams,	40	—	37	6	4	39	2	1	1	2	—	—
Adams,	166	49	14	6	2	6	5	1	16	6	—	2
Adams,	106	3	45	33	15	7	9	1	6	1	1	2
Adams,	145	45	40	30	6	6	6	6	6	1	—	—
Adams,	61	4	21	27	11	6	1	2	5	2	—	—
Adams,	65	6	35	7	7	12	6	6	4	6	1	3
Total of Non-Consolidated Electoral Divisions.	413	154	219	149	76	45	27	36	56	22	5	6
Total of Electoral Divisions.	413	154	219	149	76	45	27	36	56	22	5	6
OTHER.												
Adams,	66	18	17	16	6	19	6	6	7	5	5	6
Adams,	133	46	30	17	23	14	14	4	14	21	6	4
Adams,	164	59	60	54	35	13	6	4	6	4	5	—
Adams,	145	55	37	31	18	16	6	6	19	7	—	4
Adams,	76	24	15	7	6	9	6	1	6	5	1	6

L.—TABLE showing Total Number of Holdings and Number of each of Eleven Classes, arranged according to Valuation, in the County of Clare—continued.

TOWNS AND PARISHES.	Total Number of Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS, AND NUMBER IN EACH CLASS.										
		Not exceeding 100.	Above 100 and not exceeding 150.	Above 150 and not exceeding 200.	Above 200 and not exceeding 250.	Above 250 and not exceeding 300.	Above 300 and not exceeding 350.	Above 350 and not exceeding 400.	Above 400 and not exceeding 450.	Above 450 and not exceeding 500.	Above 500 and not exceeding 550.	Above 550 and not exceeding 600.
Towns—continued.												
Dynart,	104	22	45	27	7	14	3	4	2	—	—	1
Ennis Road,	101	35	32	20	12	21	12	4	17	3	—	1
Heale Trian,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Furness,	151	33	50	26	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kilbuck,	158	28	34	22	18	17	8	0	8	—	—	—
KEBuck,	140	4	51	34	18	17	5	5	3	2	—	—
FFlow,	84	20	5	17	13	15	7	3	13	1	1	—
Kilmanora,	141	20	42	15	23	18	8	10	7	4	1	1
Kilrush,	77	8	33	15	14	8	4	5	8	—	—	—
Kilshob,	80	21	40	18	5	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
Neenart,	85	28	30	10	7	6	7	—	5	—	1	1
Shanishole,	80	28	18	10	6	9	1	4	3	4	3	1
Spacemill,	85	5	18	10	10	10	7	5	7	3	1	—
Templemole,	90	15	18	8	15	13	8	5	8	3	5	—
Woolfough,	85	20	13	13	13	13	6	—	0	3	—	1
Uda,	85	27	8	11	5	1	2	2	11	12	3	1
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions,	2,215	278	587	310	225	313	180	90	180	71	15	28
Total of Electoral Divisions,	2,313	278	587	310	225	312	220	90	180	71	15	28
Parishes.												
Amagh,	231	33	120	34	22	19	1	1	1	—	1	—
Bellagh,	108	22	61	12	5	4	3	—	—	1	—	—
Bolton,	218	32	88	29	17	12	2	2	—	—	—	—
Ballymore,	147	24	54	24	16	11	3	1	0	1	—	—
Ballyvaughan,	218	18	90	29	7	11	5	—	5	1	—	—
Claydon,	99	22	42	8	7	3	—	2	3	8	—	—
Clonsilla,	145	44	32	25	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clonfert,	54	1	34	45	5	3	3	5	—	—	—	—
Frattinon,	211	63	54	22	10	23	8	2	6	1	—	1
Fennell,	65	11	35	14	1	—	1	—	1	3	—	—
Glenties,	151	18	40	10	7	12	4	5	5	2	1	1
Kilbapollas,	106	18	55	15	5	12	3	2	1	3	—	—
Kilbapollas,	144	27	63	10	4	4	—	1	5	3	—	5
Kilbenny,	46	8	14	5	7	6	4	—	2	—	—	—
Lisnagar,	47	15	21	12	10	5	3	—	6	4	—	—
Lisnag,	65	5	23	11	4	4	0	—	8	1	—	—
Magheranagh,	125	16	45	24	8	8	4	—	1	—	—	—
Millemore,	223	31	65	43	12	8	3	1	3	1	1	1
Key,	260	47	118	37	5	19	7	1	2	—	—	—
Red Dalrymple,	37	6	25	12	5	7	4	—	5	2	—	—
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions,	2,512	318	1,109	483	320	482	22	18	66	21	3	5
Total of Electoral Divisions,	2,613	318	1,109	483	320	483	22	18	66	21	3	5

I.—TABLE showing Total Number of Holdings and Number of each of Eleven Classes, arranged according to Valuation, in the County of Clare—continued.

APPENDIX II.

TOWN AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Number of Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS, AND NUMBER IN EACH CLASS.										
		Not assessed the 64.	Above £4 and not assessed the 64.	Above £10 and not assessed the 64.	Above £20 and not assessed the 64.	Above £30 and not assessed the 64.	Above £40 and not assessed the 64.	Above £50 and not assessed the 64.	Above £60 and not assessed the 64.	Above £70 and not assessed the 64.	Above £80 and not assessed the 64.	Above £90 and not assessed the 64.
EMERALD DIVISION.												
Askeaton,	56	7	6	6	6	7	5	4	4	2	2	1
Castlegar,	127	14	46	46	21	19	7	—	1	—	—	—
Clonsilla,	124	12	44	37	37	18	2	2	2	1	1	—
Ennis,	193	26	40	34	18	15	8	3	4	3	—	—
Ennis,	180	14	33	33	21	4	4	—	6	—	—	—
Ennis,	184	33	34	26	32	16	6	2	6	5	1	1
Ennis,	186	14	33	31	17	16	4	6	7	2	—	—
Ennis,	136	40	64	64	6	4	4	2	6	—	—	—
Ennis,	114	24	65	37	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ennis,	133	14	44	20	11	12	6	6	6	2	2	—
Ennis,	70	12	36	10	6	6	6	1	2	1	1	—
Total of Non-Consolidated Electoral Divisions.	1,425	167	621	585	143	116	67	35	41	26	7	6
Total of Electoral Divisions.	1,425	167	621	585	143	116	67	35	41	26	7	6
ENNIS DIVISION.												
Askeaton,	107	59	46	6	6	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Castlegar,	174	20	46	15	6	21	6	1	4	2	1	—
Castlegar,	128	14	42	27	32	6	2	2	2	—	—	—
Castlegar,	148	22	41	35	34	18	7	—	1	1	1	—
Castlegar,	121	37	46	23	14	6	4	—	1	1	—	—
Castlegar,	104	50	41	33	30	10	7	3	6	1	—	—
Castlegar,	109	64	38	28	6	15	1	2	2	1	—	—
Castlegar,	161	66	37	14	6	7	2	3	2	2	—	—
Castlegar,	127	34	42	22	13	9	1	2	—	—	—	—
Castlegar,	179	41	44	36	14	6	3	3	1	1	—	—
Castlegar,	184	47	42	36	30	15	4	6	7	—	1	—
Castlegar,	131	38	46	31	20	14	7	—	4	1	—	—
Castlegar,	145	21	46	46	26	39	6	1	6	1	—	1
Castlegar,	125	40	38	44	16	26	6	—	—	—	—	—
Castlegar,	126	41	34	23	10	35	7	4	3	—	—	—
Castlegar,	134	48	37	33	33	29	11	5	7	4	—	—
Castlegar,	58	37	32	26	4	6	3	6	6	—	1	—
Castlegar,	140	35	46	39	18	34	4	6	6	1	—	2
Castlegar,	127	20	76	39	6	4	1	—	1	—	—	—
Castlegar,	66	20	58	19	7	25	6	1	2	—	—	—
Castlegar,	81	14	7	16	6	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
Castlegar,	179	41	36	33	16	22	2	6	6	2	—	—
Castlegar,	106	13	46	18	12	6	6	—	6	—	—	—
Castlegar,	84	22	17	18	12	6	7	4	1	—	—	—
Castlegar,	145	35	54	46	6	6	3	6	1	—	—	—
Castlegar,	80	12	35	6	6	2	6	6	1	—	—	—
Castlegar,	60	40	31	16	10	14	4	1	1	—	—	—
Castlegar,	65	6	27	10	6	12	6	1	1	—	—	—
Total of Non-Consolidated Electoral Divisions.	1,425	606	1,196	426	612	684	125	45	55	19	4	2
Total of Electoral Divisions.	1,425	606	1,196	426	612	684	125	45	55	19	4	2

I.—TABLE showing Total Number of Holdings and Number of each of Eleven Classes, arranged according to Valuation, in the County of Clare.—continued.

TOWNS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Number of Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS, AND NUMBER IN EACH CLASS.										
		Not exceeding 54.	Above 54 and not exceeding 100.	Above 100 and not exceeding 150.	Above 150 and not exceeding 200.	Above 200 and not exceeding 250.	Above 250 and not exceeding 300.	Above 300 and not exceeding 400.	Above 400 and not exceeding 500.	Above 500 and not exceeding 1,000.	Above 1,000 and not exceeding 2,000.	Above 2,000 and not exceeding 5,000.
TOWNS.												
Adelphi,	32	0	7	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	—	—
Adelphi,	43	24	11	7	0	0	0	1	10	7	0	—
Adelphi,	40	0	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—
Adelphi,	194	00	00	10	4	0	2	1	2	0	—	1
Adelphi,	130	12	00	10	20	10	7	1	4	1	—	—
Adelphi,	60	7	00	00	11	10	0	—	2	1	—	—
Adelphi,	102	00	10	0	7	00	0	2	00	0	1	—
Adelphi,	105	14	07	00	10	17	0	1	1	1	—	1
Adelphi,	82	17	11	10	0	11	0	4	0	0	—	—
Adelphi,	60	00	00	10	7	10	0	0	1	—	—	—
Adelphi,	110	20	00	10	10	10	0	1	0	1	0	1
Adelphi,	140	40	10	10	10	10	0	0	10	0	1	—
Adelphi,	60	7	10	10	0	10	0	0	—	—	—	—
Adelphi,	127	20	00	14	7	0	—	0	0	0	—	—
Adelphi,	77	20	10	10	0	4	0	4	0	—	0	—
Total of Non-Organized Electoral Divisions.	1,253	270	207	212	224	240	60	20	71	17	11	1
Total of Electoral Divisions.	1,253	270	207	212	224	240	60	20	71	17	11	1
SCOTLAND.												
Arly,	74	0	00	00	10	0	0	1	—	0	—	—
Arly,	00	0	00	10	10	10	0	0	—	0	—	—
Arly,	00	7	20	27	0	4	0	1	0	0	—	—
Arly,	17	40	10	—	1	0	0	—	—	—	—	—
Arly,	00	7	20	10	0	0	—	0	1	0	—	—
Arly,	00	0	10	0	4	1	1	—	0	1	—	—
Arly,	00	0	00	10	10	0	0	0	1	1	—	—
Arly,	40	10	10	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	—
Arly,	00	20	11	0	0	0	0	0	1	—	—	—
Arly,	00	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	—	—
Arly,	100	01	40	14	14	10	0	0	0	0	—	—
Arly,	140	44	44	10	10	0	0	0	0	—	—	—
Arly,	60	10	10	0	0	1	1	1	0	—	—	—
Arly,	110	0	41	11	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Arly,	12	—	0	0	1	0	1	0	—	—	—	—
Arly,	110	0	41	11	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Arly,	12	10	10	7	1	0	—	—	—	—	1	—
Arly,	144	00	10	10	10	10	10	1	0	0	—	—
Arly,	140	10	17	07	10	10	11	0	0	0	—	—
Total of Organized Electoral Divisions.	61	10	14	7	1	0	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total of Non-Organized Electoral Divisions.	1,474	210	100	100	107	110	67	20	40	10	1	1
Total of Electoral Divisions.	1,774	314	140	100	140	110	67	20	40	10	1	1

* Scheduled as Organized.

1.—TABLE showing Total Number of Holdings and Number of each of Eleven Classes, arranged according to Valuation, in the County of Gloucester.—continued.

APPENDIX II.

TOWNS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Number of Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS, ACCORDING TO RENT CLASS.									
		Not exceeding £4 10s.	Above £4 and not exceeding £12.	Above £12 and not exceeding £15.	Above £15 and not exceeding £20.	Above £20 and not exceeding £30.	Above £30 and not exceeding £40.	Above £40 and not exceeding £50.	Above £50 and not exceeding £60.	Above £60 and not exceeding £75.	Above £75 and not exceeding £100.
TOWNS.											
Asbury,	48	2	11	14	6	2	2	2	4	—	—
Asbury,	112	12	31	36	10	14	5	2	7	—	1
Asbury,	22	12	42	16	6	2	2	2	5	1	—
Asbury,	12	8	21	15	2	2	2	7	7	2	—
Asbury,	12	12	21	6	2	2	2	1	7	2	1
Asbury,	70	12	41	10	2	2	1	4	—	—	—
Asbury,	120	47	12	12	2	12	2	2	2	1	2
Asbury,	104	47	12	12	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Asbury,	127	41	27	12	12	2	—	2	2	1	—
Asbury,	68	12	22	12	2	2	—	4	2	—	—
Asbury,	121	54	12	12	12	12	7	—	2	1	2
Asbury,	22	22	12	12	2	2	—	—	1	—	—
Asbury,	102	17	42	12	2	2	4	1	2	2	1
Asbury,	121	22	14	12	12	12	4	2	2	2	1
Asbury,	12	12	14	12	7	12	2	2	1	—	—
Asbury,	22	12	12	2	2	12	2	2	7	2	1
Asbury,	27	12	12	2	2	2	2	2	1	—	—
Asbury,	242	21	22	21	12	12	—	—	2	—	1
Total of Non-Consolidated Electoral Divisions.	1,222	422	222	242	242	242	22	22	72	22	12
Total of Electoral Divisions.	1,272	422	222	242	242	242	22	22	72	22	12
Total of Consolidated Electoral Divisions in County.	22	22	14	7	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Total of Consolidated Electoral Divisions in County.	22,722	2,222	2,222	2,222	2,222	2,272	222	222	222	222	22
Total of County.	22,742	2,242	2,232	2,222	2,222	2,272	222	222	222	222	22

II.—Table showing Total Area occupied by each Class of Holdings in the County of Clare.

TOWNS AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.	Total Area occupied by Agricultural Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO RATESABLE VALUATION, WITH THE AREA UNDER EACH CLASS.										
		Not exceeding 10.	Above 10 and not exceeding 20.	Above 20 and not exceeding 30.	Above 30 and not exceeding 40.	Above 40 and not exceeding 50.	Above 50 and not exceeding 60.	Above 60 and not exceeding 70.	Above 70 and not exceeding 80.	Above 80 and not exceeding 90.	Above 90 and not exceeding 100.	Above 100 in value.
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
BALLYVAUGHAN.												
Abber.	9,380	40	228	485	881	730	304	40	2,040	221	1,053	—
Cavan.	9,481	8	242	441	325	325	1,003	404	3,360	3,338	—	—
Corduff.	9,847	20	208	83	87	713	1,327	418	2,021	464	—	—
Droghda.	4,433	63	818	87	360	349	379	461	624	361	—	—
Ennamore.	4,972	260	340	221	120	345	408	60	1,705	538	774	—
Glinsk.	6,217	554	308	486	1,480	1,645	—	323	835	400	—	—
Malcomrath.	5,712	200	128	488	400	380	89	374	381	611	—	—
Monkstown.	7,658	59	39	450	581	422	808	408	1,142	5,083	—	—
Naughton.	7,272	72	70	54	180	371	1,381	374	1,505	2,523	664	71
Oughmash.	6,780	39	340	1,084	794	1,424	379	2,023	2,785	—	—	—
Ballinacorney.	7,423	150	84	—	—	539	301	212	1,745	360	5,009	1,300
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions.	69,658	977	5,252	4,013	5,288	7,552	6,822	5,461	18,487	21,350	4,180	1,400
Total of Electoral Divisions.	69,658	977	5,252	4,013	5,288	7,552	6,822	5,461	18,487	21,350	4,180	1,400
CONGESTED.												
Ballyvaughan.	5,590	100	548	340	327	87	—	410	—	640	—	—
Boston.	11,200	71	1,738	1,071	1,488	2,070	140	1,945	1,445	1,460	—	—
Cavan.	7,558	216	255	280	1,021	1,507	878	803	1,600	700	361	—
Glannon.	6,366	—	628	458	474	1,641	320	861	370	1,230	—	—
Killeshock.	6,014	802	618	373	100	430	354	67	2,500	818	—	1,129
Killeshock.	6,612	5	808	713	348	280	330	810	323	303	228	1,100
Marlborough.	5,147	379	1,138	1,200	378	740	1,000	330	1,080	268	—	—
St. John.	4,264	8	214	980	447	321	375	382	308	333	432	—
St. John.	6,162	60	504	555	187	427	800	600	601	871	615	1,120
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions.	56,825	1,470	7,100	6,237	6,270	7,660	5,903	4,760	9,201	6,610	1,760	3,220
Total of Electoral Divisions.	56,825	1,470	7,100	6,237	6,270	7,660	5,903	4,760	9,201	6,610	1,760	3,220
EXTRA.												
Clonsilla.	8,769	142	379	308	300	335	335	371	643	280	415	1,477
Clonsilla.	8,948	81	180	218	228	828	626	232	1,372	1,720	508	1,505
Clonsilla.	6,917	180	1,080	718	802	778	671	384	1,481	1,080	874	—
Droghda.	7,707	121	800	848	408	810	808	245	802	1,523	—	1,007
Droghda.	6,818	41	103	233	189	315	500	72	453	480	609	1,604

II.—TABLE SHOWING Total Area occupied by each Class of Holdings in the County of Clare—continued.

APPENDIX II.

COUNT AND DISTRICTAL DIVISIONS	Total Average occupied by Agricultural Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO RATHER THAN VARIATION, WITH THE AREA UNDER EACH CLASS.										
		Not exceeding 1/2	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/4	Above 1/4 and not exceeding 1/2	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/4	Above 1/4 and not exceeding 1/2	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/4	Above 1/4 and not exceeding 1/2	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/4	Above 1/4 and not exceeding 1/2	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/4	Above 1/4 and not exceeding 1/2
English—each acre.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Appl.	4,507	41	765	470	365	477	264	317	131	381	—	319
Brick Earth.	6,626	55	476	461	348	413	415	638	1,732	1,068	219	804
Coal, Tallow.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Timber.	6,921	226	4,724	3,333	466	58	—	—	—	—	—	—
Distiller.	6,123	343	1,331	1,333	334	366	402	256	766	—	—	—
Elm.	6,947	13	1,130	1,540	665	1,500	394	409	485	313	—	—
Elm.	4,057	33	137	479	640	561	438	505	1,049	313	367	—
Elm.	6,464	33	445	538	665	700	375	614	773	314	384	331
Elm.	2,317	33	461	467	566	662	335	653	666	—	—	—
Elm.	6,053	206	2,316	1,626	665	665	71	—	—	—	—	—
Elm.	6,621	46	366	436	333	313	337	—	666	—	136	1,366
Elm.	2,651	63	131	366	133	333	63	336	666	667	671	671
Elm.	4,613	54	273	273	677	793	436	433	666	754	666	—
Elm.	6,376	67	666	316	366	666	443	667	1,076	1,116	716	—
Elm.	6,316	66	324	326	472	562	361	—	667	666	—	1,616
Elm.	6,313	46	366	366	136	66	66	666	666	1,366	676	1,066
Total of Non-Compacted Districtal Divisions.	11,676	1,647	16,716	13,666	3,656	16,743	6,646	6,666	16,711	13,666	6,666	16,746
Total of Districtal Divisions.	11,676	1,647	16,716	13,666	3,656	16,743	6,646	6,666	16,711	13,666	6,666	16,746
REVENUES.												
Appl.	7,941	166	5,231	1,667	616	737	43	66	67	—	661	—
Brick.	8,796	361	1,716	456	417	661	166	—	—	616	—	—
Brick.	7,963	466	1,666	1,761	1,666	1,066	266	616	—	—	—	—
Brick.	5,661	662	666	666	616	666	166	47	666	361	—	—
Brick.	4,650	136	1,666	616	337	726	366	—	666	276	—	—
Brick.	5,644	666	1,366	666	456	136	—	666	366	667	—	—
Brick.	6,663	1,061	3,667	1,667	63	323	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brick.	6,631	36	726	1,766	616	466	366	666	—	—	—	—
Brick.	6,646	661	1,616	366	566	661	566	267	1,766	166	—	676
Brick.	6,662	216	1,662	1,766	46	—	166	—	666	1,661	—	—
Brick.	6,661	366	1,666	666	336	676	176	36	1,666	466	361	1,666
Brick.	6,766	226	1,661	616	66	666	326	166	166	666	—	—
Brick.	6,136	616	1,666	616	336	336	—	66	176	666	—	1,661
Brick.	5,066	46	516	336	366	466	666	—	666	—	—	—
Brick.	6,727	266	616	666	666	666	166	—	666	1,666	—	—
Brick.	5,741	616	676	766	666	366	466	—	766	166	—	—
Brick.	6,666	666	1,666	1,666	666	666	776	—	166	—	—	—
Brick.	6,661	366	1,766	616	666	276	176	36	667	667	616	376
Brick.	6,137	667	1,661	1,676	666	666	466	36	166	—	—	—
Brick.	5,626	336	761	466	666	616	666	—	166	666	—	—
Total of Non-Compacted Districtal Divisions.	46,626	4,661	66,667	54,666	7,766	6,666	4,727	1,676	5,236	6,666	1,066	6,761
Total of Districtal Divisions.	46,626	4,661	66,666	54,666	7,766	6,666	4,727	1,676	5,236	6,666	1,066	6,761

II.—TABLE showing Total Area occupied by each Class of Holdings in the County of Clare—continued.

UNITS AND DISTRICTS RETURNED.	Total Area occupied by Arrears- and Backings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO RENTAL VALUE, WITH THE AREA IN EACH RENT CLASS.										
		Not arrear- ing 5s.	Above 14 and not arrear- ing 15s.	Above 20 and not arrear- ing 25s.	Above 25 and not arrear- ing 30s.	Above 30 and not arrear- ing 35s.	Above 35 and not arrear- ing 40s.	Above 40 and not arrear- ing 45s.	Above 45 and not arrear- ing 50s.	Above 50 and not arrear- ing 55s.	Above 55 and not arrear- ing 60s.	Above 60 and not arrear- ing 65s.
KILMARTIN.		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Ballymore,	3,180	27	77	321	518	336	92	580	335	465	318	—
Chadefield,	8,918	209	3,991	3,374	808	1,321	78	—	85	—	—	—
Coomon,	4,965	87	1,000	866	614	685	96	231	380	149	407	—
Kilbourn,	9,081	947	948	1,234	733	1,179	565	185	419	719	—	—
Kilbourn,	8,397	95	3,029	1,554	586	580	414	—	571	—	—	—
Kilbourn,	8,877	111	1,857	1,584	1,540	1,149	945	374	845	594	404	58
Kilbourn,	5,408	49	530	479	574	1,489	235	254	478	627	—	—
Kilbourn,	4,318	355	1,319	1,207	430	264	377	160	421	—	—	—
Kilbourn,	6,617	793	1,374	1,714	405	570	80	—	—	—	—	—
Kilbourn,	4,893	71	1,802	361	201	369	373	437	586	486	518	—
Kilbourn,	5,580	50	957	474	364	309	229	91	333	252	409	—
Total of Non-Compulsory Electoral Divisions.	41,130	1,916	16,369	11,467	7,192	7,095	3,893	1,881	4,714	8,009	2,168	124
Total of Electoral Divisions.	41,130	1,916	16,369	11,467	7,192	7,095	3,893	1,881	4,714	8,009	2,168	124
KILPATRICK.												
Colmestown,	4,540	1,000	1,912	396	435	219	—	—	89	—	—	—
Colmestown,	4,147	321	778	465	586	547	604	81	861	508	345	—
Colmestown,	4,808	81	1,100	1,378	679	226	546	82	946	—	—	—
Colmestown,	5,513	158	1,049	1,590	593	1,270	236	—	304	551	345	—
Colmestown,	5,845	238	1,402	1,44	711	684	385	—	553	518	—	—
Colmestown,	4,378	344	860	635	685	380	185	73	979	119	—	—
Colmestown,	4,437	345	1,367	1,102	487	549	73	837	376	255	—	—
Colmestown,	4,092	553	773	302	445	395	252	363	581	483	—	—
Colmestown,	7,470	1,214	3,028	1,319	1,648	684	369	506	—	—	—	—
Colmestown,	7,031	221	1,656	1,458	773	616	1,215	485	144	365	—	—
Colmestown,	5,685	380	740	1,341	474	609	320	600	367	—	376	—
Colmestown,	4,213	85	479	597	465	685	553	—	614	247	—	—
Colmestown,	5,513	119	828	823	1,089	1,141	211	43	746	346	—	10
Colmestown,	4,849	818	554	1,095	454	1,400	685	—	—	—	—	—
Colmestown,	4,758	371	646	346	381	668	669	377	622	—	—	—
Colmestown,	6,175	1,068	1,067	728	1,155	1,755	680	232	627	621	—	—
Colmestown,	1,530	30	100	248	81	42	42	218	218	—	218	—
Colmestown,	5,947	390	845	556	636	618	219	218	483	256	—	1,098
Colmestown,	7,431	389	2,118	1,409	804	890	218	—	134	—	—	—
Colmestown,	4,154	389	810	580	206	1,354	554	623	587	—	—	—
Colmestown,	2,384	78	228	636	638	316	374	368	—	—	—	—
Colmestown,	4,804	479	570	581	554	716	380	293	733	803	—	—
Colmestown,	4,373	112	1,540	444	435	685	601	—	798	—	—	—
Colmestown,	5,813	377	655	567	485	801	180	263	77	—	—	—
Colmestown,	4,589	378	1,389	1,345	465	617	243	87	447	559	—	—
Colmestown,	5,580	83	476	182	365	94	387	293	614	140	—	—
Colmestown,	5,945	62	374	578	369	1,855	423	356	595	—	—	—
Colmestown,	2,213	50	196	662	613	689	657	97	120	—	—	—
Total of Non-Compulsory Electoral Divisions.	131,642	8,613	16,368	12,002	10,120	15,400	10,077	5,903	12,763	4,469	1,598	1,000
Total of Electoral Divisions.	131,642	8,613	16,368	12,002	10,120	15,400	10,077	5,903	12,763	4,469	1,598	1,000

II.—TABLE showing Total Area occupied by each Class of Holdings in the County of Clare—continued.

APPENDIX II.

TABLE II.

UNITS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Average occupied Acres per Agricultural Holding.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO EXTENT OF TENURE, WITH THE AREA UNDER EACH CLASS.										
		Not exceed- ing 5A.	Above 5A and not exceed- ing 10A.	Above 10A and not exceed- ing 20A.	Above 20A and not exceed- ing 50A.	Above 50A and not exceed- ing 100A.	Above 100A and not exceed- ing 250A.	Above 250A and not exceed- ing 500A.	Above 500A and not exceed- ing 1,000A.	Above 1,000A and not exceed- ing 2,000A.	Above 2,000A and not exceed- ing 5,000A.	Above 5,000A or more.
EXTENT.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Polysomeston	2,760	35	235	35	314	230	32	364	1,481	286	—	—
Polysomeston	2,670	35	235	35	314	230	32	364	1,481	286	—	—
Quarfen	2,082	8	98	174	38	367	245	37	312	555	—	—
Quarfen	2,084	440	1,615	766	585	607	303	308	315	630	—	1,612
Quarfen	2,101	72	1,316	837	833	754	545	332	427	592	—	—
Quarfen	2,365	33	376	1,039	736	736	223	—	283	731	—	—
Quarfen	2,221	33	338	527	163	554	384	381	2,030	1,062	1,859	—
Quarfen	2,202	132	546	1,205	580	1,356	166	185	331	320	—	1,025
Quarfen	2,436	33	528	521	522	526	389	621	736	562	—	—
Quarfen	2,614	225	1,581	515	528	1,438	545	879	104	—	—	—
Quarfen	2,536	34	1,704	466	622	845	742	247	563	449	773	323
Quarfen	2,037	103	421	347	439	574	882	437	864	646	522	—
Quarfen	2,770	34	303	562	558	1,475	268	512	545	—	—	—
Quarfen	2,136	133	1,559	536	364	851	—	138	130	543	—	—
Quarfen	2,375	30	335	475	361	505	308	527	836	—	702	—
Total of Non-Compacted Electoral Divisions.	27,567	1,735	10,653	5,787	5,477	10,872	4,754	2,465	5,235	7,052	3,719	5,945
Total of Electoral Divisions.	21,227	1,976	10,653	5,287	5,477	10,872	4,754	2,465	5,235	7,052	3,719	5,945
SOURCES.												
Ards	2,765	150	601	875	573	658	465	32	—	603	—	—
Baronagh	2,375	135	339	838	615	737	384	165	—	158	—	—
Clonsilla	2,526	107	554	781	540	547	50	45	276	181	—	—
Clonsilla	2,478	5,538	1,855	—	69	352	385	—	—	—	—	—
Clonsilla	2,615	502	1,200	1,485	450	2,795	—	175	288	154	—	—
Clonsilla	2,875	618	520	182	1,613	1,044	30	—	881	805	—	—
Clonsilla	2,126	426	2,715	735	613	436	725	370	85	371	—	—
Clonsilla	2,442	167	370	580	575	528	164	546	764	321	278	—
Clonsilla	2,736	1,061	1,212	530	679	118	166	177	520	—	—	—
Clonsilla	2,571	35	364	137	580	1,182	336	131	481	305	—	—
Clonsilla	2,658	421	1,079	760	516	584	670	475	1,677	671	—	—
Clonsilla	2,557	574	1,450	513	406	571	164	137	837	—	—	—
Clonsilla North	2,425	243	784	508	284	543	96	322	332	—	—	2,179
Clonsilla South	404	—	87	45	54	58	55	218	—	—	—	—
Clonsilla	2,554	24	781	525	465	688	446	80	1,154	455	285	—
Clonsilla	2,369	426	577	445	85	218	—	—	—	—	2,131	—
Clonsilla	2,803	125	1,097	690	1,016	835	585	56	813	514	—	—
Clonsilla	2,584	144	1,808	2,184	594	500	755	554	218	1,806	—	518
Total of Compacted Electoral Divisions.	2,765	465	577	445	85	218	—	—	—	—	5,181	—
Total of Non-Compacted Electoral Divisions.	74,168	7,485	18,867	35,092	6,408	35,521	8,750	5,245	8,427	11,185	917	8,758
Total of Electoral Divisions.	81,937	7,980	37,084	15,558	6,493	16,752	5,755	5,245	8,427	11,185	918	8,758

* Estimated as Corrected.

II.—TABLE showing Total Area occupied by each Class of Holdings in the County of Clare—continued.

UNION AND ELECTIONAL DIVISIONS.	Total Acres occupied by Agricultural Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO RATES FOR VALUATION, WITH THE AREA OCCUPIED BY EACH CLASS.										
		Not inclosed or not enclosed by a wall.	Above 54 and not enclosed by a wall.	Above 55 and not enclosed by a wall.	Above 56 and not enclosed by a wall.	Above 57 and not enclosed by a wall.	Above 58 and not enclosed by a wall.	Above 59 and not enclosed by a wall.	Above 60 and not enclosed by a wall.	Above 61 and not enclosed by a wall.	Above 62 and not enclosed by a wall.	Above 63 and not enclosed by a wall.
TOTAL.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Ballydoole,	1,925	2	245	376	532	505	146	72	445	—	—	—
Ballydoole,	4,486	39	355	665	474	697	339	1,025	372	—	—	36
Clare,	9,276	109	5,793	1,040	294	292	582	337	272	544	—	—
Clare,	4,733	12	323	297	319	615	171	522	804	622	—	1,62
Dangan,	5,365	93	176	120	336	140	950	91	645	515	613	27
Glenties,	4,335	165	5,280	542	685	126	77	581	—	—	—	—
Glenties,	4,662	126	320	423	320	677	397	85	216	171	567	1,01
Glenties,	5,454	1,673	6,135	1,585	625	279	320	—	—	—	—	—
Glenties,	5,187	282	780	400	480	317	740	—	568	509	461	—
Glenties,	5,235	797	1,525	600	290	266	—	—	373	675	—	1,24
Kila,	6,038	62	585	368	682	545	654	—	761	175	411	—
Lough,	5,642	466	1,557	974	675	216	—	1,099	—	—	—	—
Neengrove,	5,454	231	1,636	971	136	672	204	65	200	565	—	47
Quin,	6,274	30	905	600	458	612	215	373	689	697	416	121
Shillington,	5,699	590	545	380	728	645	116	648	86	—	—	—
Temora,	5,322	8	134	123	319	405	643	356	634	226	680	66
Thorncliffe,	5,075	264	627	184	634	170	54	143	230	324	—	—
Tulla,	4,446	54	336	415	572	666	313	—	304	—	—	33
Total of Non-Consolidated Electoral Divisions.	45,764	5,283	17,375	8,600	7,016	7,460	5,343	2,740	16,429	4,537	5,182	7,76
Total of Electoral Divisions.	45,764	5,283	17,375	8,600	7,016	7,460	5,343	2,740	16,429	4,537	5,182	7,76
Total of Consolidated Electoral Divisions in County.	5,565	435	677	644	62	216	—	—	—	—	2,331	—
Total of Non-Consolidated Electoral Divisions in County.	792,770	38,618	145,643	136,464	72,594	63,362	51,397	35,592	62,567	64,896	27,769	41,61
Total of County.	798,335	39,053	146,320	137,108	72,656	63,578	51,603	35,832	62,567	64,896	28,101	41,61

III.—TABLE showing Total Valuation of each Class of Holdings in the County of Clare

APPENDIX II.

COUNT AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Valuation.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS, AND THEIR SEVERAL VALUATIONS OF HOUSING IN EACH CLASS.										
		Not exceeding 10s.	Above 10s and not exceeding 15s.	Above 15s and not exceeding 20s.	Above 20s and not exceeding 25s.	Above 25s and not exceeding 30s.	Above 30s and not exceeding 35s.	Above 35s and not exceeding 40s.	Above 40s and not exceeding 45s.	Above 45s and not exceeding 50s.	Above 50s and not exceeding 60s.	Above 60s and not exceeding 100s.
INMILTOWN.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Glenties,	1,897	89	102	254	348	315	211	42	887	156	518	—
Glenties,	1,798	0	70	218	58	58	192	275	277	438	—	—
Glenties,	1,474	5	25	25	18	181	258	254	254	354	—	—
Glenties,	854	18	50	50	150	75	74	44	218	145	—	—
Glenties,	1,803	24	70	186	50	200	252	54	505	130	551	—
Glenties,	848	27	65	80	174	258	—	27	70	145	—	—
Glenties,	1,811	28	90	170	258	55	258	145	555	455	—	—
Glenties,	1,500	19	25	130	227	141	278	120	554	1,014	—	—
Glenties,	1,758	0	25	14	54	77	581	80	511	1,555	254	268
Glenties,	1,578	8	55	180	118	745	25	580	452	—	—	—
Glenties,	1,803	18	18	—	—	155	71	45	315	506	285	268
Total of Non-Occupied Electoral Divisions.	18,594	225	865	1,123	1,581	1,749	1,584	1,155	3,355	5,755	1,580	1,577
Total of Electoral Divisions.	18,594	225	865	1,123	1,581	1,749	1,584	1,155	3,355	5,755	1,580	1,577
COBLENCE.												
Adelphi,	848	8	27	45	80	55	—	45	—	308	—	—
Adelphi,	1,870	17	200	200	185	458	84	158	245	304	—	—
Adelphi,	1,320	51	187	86	581	847	281	217	550	444	214	—
Adelphi,	1,007	—	100	72	85	550	85	42	47	354	—	—
Adelphi,	1,527	51	147	100	55	564	55	48	1,117	825	—	254
Adelphi,	1,000	8	888	227	222	185	358	214	254	187	225	348
Adelphi,	1,135	55	287	888	144	550	180	278	487	105	—	—
Adelphi,	1,087	0	252	811	188	75	155	154	250	554	475	—
Adelphi,	1,795	25	278	58	185	280	277	554	325	444	515	450
Total of Non-Occupied Electoral Divisions.	18,780	281	1,448	1,888	1,517	5,181	1,580	1,384	3,941	5,821	1,184	3,125
Total of Electoral Divisions.	18,780	281	1,448	1,888	1,517	5,181	1,580	1,384	3,941	5,821	1,184	3,125
BRISTOL.												
Brighthelm,	4,878	50	214	228	168	548	255	255	550	825	478	1,110
Brighthelm,	7,081	85	145	204	359	825	480	275	1,425	1,788	684	1,070
Brighthelm,	1,158	87	420	808	288	585	255	255	580	520	210	—
Brighthelm,	1,188	81	285	255	224	425	605	184	848	1,080	—	1,058
Brighthelm,	4,828	44	197	80	205	187	215	45	420	211	484	1,054

III.—TABLE showing Total Valuation of each Class of Holdings in the County of Clare—continued.

TOWNS AND RURAL DIVISIONS.	Total Valuation.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS, AND TOTAL RURAL VALUATION OF OTHER IN EACH CLASS.										
		Not over 100 a.c.	Above 100 and not over 200 a.c.	Above 200 and not over 300 a.c.	Above 300 and not over 400 a.c.	Above 400 and not over 500 a.c.	Above 500 and not over 600 a.c.	Above 600 and not over 700 a.c.	Above 700 and not over 800 a.c.	Above 800 and not over 900 a.c.	Above 900 and not over 1,000 a.c.	Above 1,000 a.c.
TOWNS—continued.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Dysart,	8,845	54	285	321	180	228	122	168	208	—	—	—
Moate Road,	4,922	58	262	323	285	270	439	343	1,794	854	279	121
Roche Urban,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feenoh,	942	24	269	326	73	27	—	—	—	—	—	—
Killicha,	8,358	52	275	307	322	428	268	258	488	—	—	—
Killicha,	2,224	6	258	421	323	471	774	224	185	245	—	—
Killicha,	8,684	85	66	218	271	858	245	128	885	145	265	—
Killicha,	3,843	24	214	328	290	384	807	425	514	587	281	12
Killicha,	1,268	19	183	166	216	187	128	95	168	—	—	—
Killicha,	219	25	210	215	85	97	48	—	—	—	—	—
Stromah,	3,973	25	198	208	128	164	264	—	215	—	215	249
Stromah,	2,481	54	155	217	168	362	37	285	685	505	210	12
Stromah,	3,773	15	198	128	218	362	242	210	498	425	265	—
Templemore,	2,204	94	128	68	185	328	264	121	187	702	418	—
Templemore,	8,703	36	60	122	213	227	225	—	285	662	—	185
Ulan,	4,848	55	54	189	85	52	92	121	785	1,708	618	1,715
Total of Non-Consolidated Rural Divisions.	25,223	728	4,158	4,454	3,217	5,144	4,286	3,667	12,761	12,248	4,728	12,248
Total of Rural Divisions.	25,225	728	4,158	4,454	3,217	5,144	4,286	3,667	12,761	12,248	4,728	12,248
TOWNS.												
Asheah,	1,182	80	826	428	538	280	27	45	84	—	178	—
Bellah,	1,878	70	421	168	95	82	80	—	—	598	—	—
Ballyva,	1,868	59	289	448	289	270	65	80	—	—	—	—
Ballyva,	1,842	27	271	221	242	229	73	48	427	136	—	—
Ballyva,	1,873	65	422	340	180	269	278	—	345	180	—	—
Clonah,	1,477	80	263	27	122	47	—	122	125	485	—	—
Clonah,	598	127	468	808	28	52	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clonah,	1,124	4	285	212	58	127	125	58	—	—	—	—
Clonah,	3,481	141	218	298	218	218	274	141	642	128	—	208
Clonah,	726	22	268	272	18	—	35	—	82	172	—	—
Clonah,	1,850	58	346	344	128	285	140	84	818	212	215	427
Clonah,	1,343	29	385	184	82	382	182	82	94	318	—	—
Clonah,	2,584	118	427	128	86	94	—	46	212	212	—	1,222
Clonah,	720	12	80	24	122	182	242	—	248	—	—	—
Clonah,	2,229	48	182	282	171	252	82	—	628	282	—	—
Clonah,	828	50	148	122	70	182	207	—	272	218	—	—
Clonah,	1,566	82	382	422	182	162	218	—	82	—	—	—
Clonah,	2,422	208	807	828	184	122	208	42	122	282	278	187
Clonah,	2,212	148	214	482	141	222	242	42	182	—	—	—
Clonah,	1,228	22	182	182	82	182	227	—	212	427	—	—
Total of Non-Consolidated Rural Divisions.	24,228	1,228	5,824	5,824	3,422	5,122	3,222	828	5,822	5,222	262	2,724
Total of Rural Divisions.	24,228	1,228	5,824	5,824	3,422	5,122	3,222	828	5,822	5,222	262	2,724

III.—TABLE showing Total Valuation of each Class of Holdings in the County of Clare—continued.

APPENDIX II.

TYPES AND EXTENT OF HOLDINGS.	Total Valuation £000.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS, AND TOTAL RENTABLE VALUATION OF THESE IN EACH CLASS.										
		Not exceeding £4.	Above £4 and not exceeding £10.	Above £10 and not exceeding £20.	Above £20 and not exceeding £50.	Above £50 and not exceeding £100.	Above £100 and not exceeding £250.	Above £250 and not exceeding £500.	Above £500 and not exceeding £1,000.	Above £1,000 and not exceeding £2,500.	Above £2,500 and not exceeding £5,000.	Above £5,000 in value.
ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.												
KILGARREY.												
Infants,	5,010	12	52	130	164	188	208	180	248	412	608	1,072
Children,	1,302	37	417	341	180	345	98	—	86	—	—	—
Adults,	9,038	21	508	227	281	378	64	187	159	278	237	—
Unsettled,	2,787	88	180	167	215	160	301	84	318	807	—	—
Unsettled,	3,717	27	486	897	101	98	159	—	379	—	—	—
Unsettled,	3,854	35	688	402	188	475	286	158	194	218	318	182
Unsettled,	4,808	28	161	188	307	954	240	344	104	207	—	—
Unsettled,	1,512	46	409	417	158	181	144	90	137	—	—	—
Unsettled,	812	75	415	215	90	45	58	—	—	—	—	—
Unsettled,	2,450	80	308	227	184	279	278	228	184	370	218	—
Unsettled,	3,387	25	308	188	187	543	90	48	485	128	371	—
Total of Non-Consolidated Electoral Divisions.	54,124	420	3,781	3,478	3,468	3,508	3,484	3,848	3,848	3,784	3,784	1,408
Total of Electoral Divisions.	54,124	420	3,781	3,478	3,468	3,508	3,484	3,848	3,848	3,784	3,784	1,408
KILGARREY.												
Outsawing,	808	88	187	106	162	38	71	—	87	—	—	—
Grounds,	3,475	22	342	257	173	247	368	41	303	334	318	—
Coastlands,	1,943	25	350	468	238	148	307	64	185	—	—	—
Gravel,	3,083	54	448	437	587	207	73	—	64	158	312	—
Gravel,	1,532	45	418	307	288	188	147	—	78	108	—	—
Gravel,	3,081	112	354	388	345	312	71	48	347	101	—	—
Gravel,	1,881	119	418	307	121	838	38	128	314	314	—	—
Gravel,	3,119	78	198	288	180	182	97	48	154	318	—	—
Gravel,	1,308	88	402	274	184	180	97	48	—	—	—	—
Gravel,	3,508	78	418	430	548	208	368	318	38	178	—	—
Gravel,	3,678	78	418	430	548	208	368	318	38	178	—	—
Gravel,	3,418	77	380	425	278	384	342	228	604	—	312	—
Gravel,	1,773	34	144	378	388	318	368	—	398	144	—	—
Gravel,	2,784	34	308	322	464	358	188	42	388	134	—	412
Gravel,	1,468	68	288	444	182	278	528	—	—	—	—	—
Gravel,	2,844	188	418	278	188	318	281	178	174	—	—	—
Gravel,	3,712	78	418	388	371	602	388	312	418	412	—	—
Gravel,	1,508	38	118	102	88	68	87	348	348	—	382	—
Gravel,	3,818	64	588	394	602	661	247	327	188	142	—	781
Gravel,	1,312	81	318	187	145	88	22	—	68	—	—	—
Gravel,	3,188	88	318	188	180	102	77	80	184	—	—	—
Gravel,	588	34	38	218	188	38	88	68	—	—	—	—
Gravel,	1,302	158	307	378	238	278	80	80	318	388	—	—
Gravel,	1,312	38	388	618	388	387	108	—	188	—	—	—
Gravel,	1,187	36	158	118	218	188	68	288	64	—	—	—
Gravel,	1,494	48	408	388	90	188	108	48	387	378	—	—
St. Martin,	1,318	58	388	64	90	48	108	142	408	378	—	—
Gravel,	1,642	81	80	281	178	218	181	42	64	—	—	—
Gravel,	648	28	187	384	208	381	181	48	88	—	—	—
Total of Non-Consolidated Electoral Divisions.	48,278	1,728	3,312	3,798	3,716	3,408	3,318	3,184	3,308	3,188	988	3,188
Total of Electoral Divisions.	48,278	1,728	3,312	3,798	3,716	3,408	3,318	3,184	3,308	3,188	988	3,188

III.—TABLE showing Total Valuation of each Class of Holdings in the County of Clare—continued.

UNIONS AND TENSORIAL DIVISIONS.	Total Value £s.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS AND TOTAL RENTABLE VALUATION OF THEM IN EACH CLASS										
		Not enclosed £s.	Above 14 and not enclosed £20.	Above 110 and not enclosed £115.	Above 115 and not enclosed £125.	Above 125 and not enclosed £150.	Above 150 and not enclosed £200.	Above 200 and not enclosed £250.	Above 250 and not enclosed £300.	Above 300 and not enclosed £400.	Above 400 and not enclosed £500.	Above 500 and not enclosed £600.
UNIONS.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ennisvannon	1,547	9	85	50	59	59	59	59	42	402	974	—
Ballypore	1,822	48	81	88	92	211	308	41	658	1,012	485	—
Capprilla	1,614	59	51	98	54	265	160	93	352	108	—	—
Cladonia	1,684	59	259	178	74	123	74	40	140	318	—	121
Cliphers	1,794	25	876	212	871	513	318	43	327	182	—	—
Clonane	1,979	15	215	308	169	202	68	—	125	143	—	—
Crilly	1,879	22	130	68	153	169	308	107	715	1,616	108	—
Fulymann	1,586	30	148	515	228	463	84	44	57	148	—	27
Kilfinny	1,944	60	316	122	168	387	312	179	637	416	—	—
Kilfinnedy	1,677	27	370	146	187	387	131	263	54	—	—	—
Kilfly	1,677	64	528	197	225	272	207	44	313	150	481	20
Kilkeash	1,880	60	338	341	383	615	171	289	660	815	662	—
Ladnagall	1,131	21	96	109	137	289	167	127	318	—	—	—
Monsteran	1,680	58	307	180	124	219	—	85	154	466	—	—
O'Leahach	1,629	48	102	175	145	60	187	159	251	—	484	—
Total of Non-Consolidated Electoral Divisions.	80,000	583	3,464	3,614	3,209	6,021	3,280	1,053	4,862	6,594	2,543	1,331
Total of Electoral Divisions.	80,889	625	3,486	3,614	3,336	3,023	3,270	1,050	4,983	5,184	2,583	1,331
SOURCES.												
Agh	1,502	16	107	160	107	300	319	41	—	471	—	—
Edenmore	1,571	13	110	205	209	250	140	63	—	181	—	—
Calaherty	1,969	21	110	215	60	87	62	43	142	289	—	—
Calaherty	426	70	70	—	19	69	60	—	—	—	—	—
Capprilla	765	17	122	122	70	181	—	60	67	295	—	—
Carvillan	170	7	78	26	60	50	30	—	148	145	—	—
Clonane	1,176	58	568	197	266	324	211	60	54	215	—	—
Clonane	1,776	24	323	87	141	80	107	163	837	838	568	—
Coffin	176	56	303	67	35	46	76	40	66	—	—	—
Derryagh	1,665	23	128	180	60	218	151	67	218	113	—	—
Edenmore	1,217	96	308	179	381	324	179	87	896	259	—	—
Fulymann	1,456	102	613	140	215	218	184	41	179	—	—	—
Kilfinnedy North	1,120	27	164	77	80	310	81	61	66	—	—	66
Kilfinnedy South	516	—	34	59	16	66	35	50	—	—	—	—
Kilkeash	1,654	19	308	615	616	838	229	34	562	485	490	—
Monsteran	837	54	69	69	18	50	—	—	—	289	—	—
O'Leahach	1,617	64	362	260	448	374	404	42	422	153	—	—
O'Leahach	1,612	61	932	477	516	1,058	340	336	80	421	—	64
Total of Consolidated Electoral Divisions.	812	64	69	60	19	60	—	—	—	—	568	—
Total of Non-Consolidated Electoral Divisions.	22,888	621	3,571	3,712	3,732	3,719	3,410	1,199	5,070	5,116	712	66
Total of Electoral Divisions.	84,480	685	3,700	3,868	3,861	3,654	3,420	1,185	5,079	5,116	680	66

* Scheduled as Completed.

III.—TABLE showing Total Valuation of each Class of Holdings in the County of Essex—continued.

APPENDIX II.

TOWN AND PARISHES DIVISIONS.	Total Valuation.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS AND TOTAL RENTABLE VALUATION OF THESE BY RATE CLASS.										
		Total occupied land.	Above 50 and not exceeding 100.	Above 100 and not exceeding 200.	Above 200 and not exceeding 300.	Above 300 and not exceeding 400.	Above 400 and not exceeding 500.	Above 500 and not exceeding 600.	Above 600 and not exceeding 700.	Above 700 and not exceeding 800.	Above 800 and not exceeding 900.	Above 900 and not exceeding 1,000.
TOTAL.	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Admiralty,	584	5	54	174	55	556	55	42	542	—	—	—
Albion Works,	2,551	21	216	825	156	269	175	228	454	—	—	350
Artes,	1,508	54	557	157	60	158	176	53	515	141	—	—
Barrow,	5,547	15	56	154	127	508	186	559	445	435	—	1,158
Barnes,	1,631	30	75	77	155	51	50	45	535	515	268	511
Barnes,	538	41	505	227	50	45	55	515	—	—	—	—
Barnes,	5,757	45	505	505	555	555	517	45	555	515	555	555
Barnes,	1,185	114	515	515	50	77	75	—	—	—	—	—
Barnes,	5,185	70	517	555	555	555	555	—	555	515	555	—
Barnes,	1,557	51	555	555	55	55	—	—	555	515	—	555
Barnes,	1,571	55	555	555	555	555	555	—	555	515	555	—
Barnes,	755	54	515	555	555	55	—	—	75	—	—	—
Barnes,	5,555	45	555	555	55	557	555	45	555	515	—	555
Barnes,	2,555	45	55	555	555	555	555	555	555	555	555	555
Barnes,	555	55	555	555	555	555	555	555	555	555	555	555
Barnes,	2,555	14	75	55	555	555	555	555	555	555	555	555
Barnes,	555	55	555	55	555	55	55	55	55	555	—	—
Barnes,	2,555	75	555	555	555	557	157	—	515	—	—	515
Total of Non-Consolidated Electoral Divisions.	25,557	555	5,554	5,555	5,555	5,555	5,555	1,477	5,555	5,555	1,555	5,555
Total of Electoral Divisions.	25,557	555	5,554	5,555	5,555	5,555	5,555	1,477	5,555	5,555	1,555	5,555
Total of Consolidated Electoral Divisions in County.	555	54	55	55	15	55	—	—	—	—	555	—
Total of Non-Consolidated Electoral Divisions in County.	25,555	5,555	55,557	55,555	55,555	55,555	55,555	55,555	55,555	55,555	55,555	55,555
Total of County.	25,555	5,555	55,555	55,555	55,555	55,555	55,555	55,555	55,555	55,555	55,555	55,555

IV.—TABLE showing the Population on each Class of Holdings in the County of Clare.

TOWNS AND ECONOMIC DIVISIONS.	Total Population on Approved Rural Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO RENTALS VARIATION, AND THEREAFTER IN EACH CLASS.										
		Not exceeding 2s.	Above 2s. and not exceeding 4s.	Above 4s. and not exceeding 6s.	Above 6s. and not exceeding 10s.	Above 10s. and not exceeding 15s.	Above 15s. and not exceeding 20s.	Above 20s. and not exceeding 30s.	Above 30s. and not exceeding 40s.	Above 40s. and not exceeding 50s.	Above 50s. and not exceeding 60s.	Above 60s. and not exceeding 70s.
		RURAL DIVISION.										
Ashley,	716	22	79	168	119	79	27	24	245	32	26	—
Corriva,	224	8	20	21	12	7	15	18	50	22	—	—
Corlough,	376	—	—	—	9	27	39	15	12	48	21	—
Corriva,	227	12	61	11	54	27	—	18	45	13	—	—
Drumcra,	408	46	64	68	38	20	20	12	92	6	41	—
Glacough,	356	72	15	44	64	84	—	38	—	9	—	—
Glacough,	357	80	47	82	80	25	14	14	92	13	—	—
Glacough,	312	13	18	43	80	23	32	20	60	77	—	—
Glacough,	218	8	8	—	6	—	25	11	42	50	6	3
Glacough,	324	8	23	27	20	20	—	20	30	—	—	—
Glacough,	348	8	4	—	—	20	18	5	55	4	18	11
Total of Non-Congested Rural Divisions.	3,428	282	282	421	421	249	281	189	878	268	221	31
Total of Congested Divisions.	3,428	282	282	421	421	249	281	189	878	268	221	31
CONGESTED.												
Ballycotton,	120	25	46	21	36	5	—	18	—	14	—	—
Boske,	540	10	100	124	87	124	7	5	24	26	—	—
Corriva,	542	40	77	27	79	88	27	24	32	24	21	—
Corriva,	272	—	200	12	25	68	20	11	13	20	—	—
Corriva,	428	127	76	51	13	30	19	6	42	19	—	—
Corriva,	217	18	122	210	75	55	25	24	22	16	6	28
Corriva,	278	24	124	258	42	28	14	22	18	20	—	—
Corriva,	422	4	122	256	98	13	28	28	12	25	41	—
Corriva,	422	22	85	27	24	45	27	28	28	24	27	25
Total of Non-Congested Rural Divisions.	3,428	282	1,056	793	808	442	282	282	226	208	221	28
Total of Congested Divisions.	3,428	282	1,056	793	808	442	282	282	226	208	221	28
EXTRA.												
Glacough,	222	46	21	47	21	22	22	27	46	25	18	128
Glacough,	221	124	21	25	25	46	25	28	124	46	42	28
Glacough,	740	75	221	127	48	54	40	25	42	46	16	—
Glacough,	702	80	114	119	60	100	28	18	21	24	—	—
Glacough,	206	75	75	21	25	25	40	6	14	2	27	28

IV.—TABLE showing the Population on each Class of Holdings in the County of Glam.—continued.

APPENDIX II.

TOWNS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Population on Agricultural Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO STATISTICAL TABLES, AND POPULATION IN EACH CLASS.										
		Not above 120 sq. ft.	Above 120 and not above 212.	Above 212 and not above 425.	Above 425 and not above 638.	Above 638 and not above 850.	Above 850 and not above 1,062.	Above 1,062 and not above 1,275.	Above 1,275 and not above 1,487.	Above 1,487 and not above 1,700.	Above 1,700 and not above 1,912.	Above 1,912 in value.
English—continued.												
Bart,	612	57	142	138	28	56	28	52	28	49	—	12
St. Paul,	1,350	152	340	308	58	940	75	88	134	155	43	98
St. Peter,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Peter,	554	48	343	182	39	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Peter,	734	28	300	137	121	107	48	38	59	—	—	—
St. Peter,	616	—	332	189	186	214	44	44	46	35	—	—
St. Peter,	602	82	48	115	66	46	46	59	112	4	18	—
St. Peter,	586	23	227	122	123	62	64	63	50	24	18	4
St. Peter,	602	27	195	62	60	36	74	12	48	—	—	—
St. Peter,	600	76	342	115	38	30	18	—	—	—	—	—
St. Peter,	478	25	85	38	38	40	38	—	66	—	21	108
St. Peter,	610	88	26	55	37	22	—	38	86	46	74	18
St. Peter,	407	58	55	47	79	107	33	17	69	50	38	—
St. Peter,	408	83	77	37	77	41	36	18	38	37	32	—
St. Peter,	492	47	55	54	56	82	22	—	65	34	—	67
St. Peter,	680	70	28	21	15	—	8	30	48	76	12	65
Total of Non-Consolidated Electoral Divisions.	15,800	1,170	5,761	3,640	1,185	1,000	763	629	1,045	675	654	654
Total of Electoral Divisions.	26,096	1,376	5,556	1,047	1,185	1,000	730	428	1,061	675	536	654
Welsh—continued.												
Amath,	1,182	81	685	208	95	78	8	15	8	—	35	—
Amath,	896	63	288	76	87	25	14	—	—	80	—	—
Amath,	810	122	556	223	214	138	8	37	—	—	—	—
Amath,	585	153	383	165	120	69	18	8	85	20	—	—
Amath,	595	45	341	136	55	68	22	—	40	30	—	—
Amath,	858	278	229	63	69	34	—	29	19	20	—	—
Amath,	948	225	464	184	4	40	—	—	—	—	—	—
Amath,	480	8	218	139	20	36	18	6	—	—	—	—
Amath,	1,182	186	400	219	115	223	77	38	66	50	—	84
Amath,	485	71	536	67	4	—	7	—	6	8	—	—
Amath,	916	64	383	150	87	73	28	33	65	50	8	96
Amath,	806	28	376	43	5	84	22	9	31	15	—	—
Amath,	613	348	600	63	28	10	—	20	38	9	—	86
Amath,	613	24	82	38	43	69	30	—	40	—	—	—
Amath,	964	97	336	61	98	84	0	—	64	53	—	—
Amath,	540	48	199	83	38	16	17	—	4	24	—	—
Amath,	715	52	377	107	18	35	64	—	16	—	—	—
Amath,	650	126	393	208	87	34	18	8	18	14	22	45
Amath,	1,036	290	410	344	76	68	73	3	17	—	—	—
Amath,	580	20	176	72	25	40	26	—	13	68	—	—
Total of Non-Consolidated Electoral Divisions.	14,621	1,868	5,516	1,506	1,084	1,215	412	179	476	605	58	223
Total of Electoral Divisions.	14,621	1,868	5,516	1,506	1,084	1,215	412	179	476	605	58	223

APPENDIX II. IV.—TABLE showing the Population on each Class of Holdings in the County of Clare—continued.

Towns and Electoral Divisions.	Total Population in Agricultural Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO RATEABLE VARIATION, AND POPULATION IN EACH CLASS.										
		Not above 10 A.C.	Above 10 and not above 250 A.C.	Above 250 and not above 400 A.C.	Above 400 and not above 600 A.C.	Above 600 and not above 1,000 A.C.	Above 1,000 and not above 2,000 A.C.	Above 2,000 and not above 4,000 A.C.	Above 4,000 and not above 10,000 A.C.	Above 10,000 and not above 20,000 A.C.	Above 20,000 A.C.	
		UNIMPROVED.										
Ballyvaughan,	336	35	28	47	46	55	37	8	83	28	30	—
Compton,	793	65	273	172	116	83	8	—	8	—	—	—
Coshwa,	352	33	138	187	168	50	9	27	8	8	7	—
Killicum,	640	57	283	240	84	182	41	18	24	38	—	—
Killicum,	654	70	323	288	73	88	87	—	21	—	—	—
Killicum,	1,148	104	378	170	133	148	89	38	78	38	30	—
Killicum,	651	48	54	150	82	180	31	14	32	38	—	—
Killicum,	770	81	318	242	42	33	36	8	18	—	—	—
Lisney,	772	130	418	184	48	80	4	—	—	—	—	—
Lisney,	777	59	323	139	68	81	35	32	82	45	18	—
Marcom,	436	39	183	85	38	49	50	7	36	5	22	—
Total of Unimproved Electoral Divisions.	5,048	797	2,764	1,682	828	961	386	328	250	147	86	—
Total of Improved Divisions.	5,048	797	2,764	1,682	828	961	386	328	250	147	86	—
IMPROVED.												
Chesmore,	563	154	229	86	64	9	7	—	4	—	—	—
Chesmore,	646	181	278	98	30	85	143	8	73	38	7	—
Chesmore,	481	42	337	384	32	48	18	7	23	—	—	—
Compton,	1,052	168	358	286	200	126	30	—	82	38	34	—
Coshwa,	953	87	488	147	218	87	34	—	12	36	—	—
Doonag,	1,288	388	317	187	206	127	7	13	54	41	—	—
Doonag,	1,808	468	378	187	68	164	8	18	28	20	—	—
Elm,	748	286	188	85	55	48	41	8	38	21	—	—
Glenn,	870	180	407	164	78	40	8	—	—	—	—	—
Killicum,	987	182	298	268	238	38	71	32	7	38	—	—
Killicum,	316	182	206	374	34	81	56	13	38	—	—	—
Killicum,	778	84	347	318	42	120	77	—	57	81	—	—
Killicum,	847	85	308	372	174	138	25	7	38	3	—	—
Killicum,	718	80	302	308	50	127	44	—	—	—	—	—
Killicum,	1,614	500	375	146	55	81	32	28	218	—	—	—
Killicum,	1,378	281	264	138	218	325	78	38	82	44	—	—
Killicum,	303	44	87	38	38	9	1	54	58	—	28	—
Killicum,	777	56	385	304	218	81	27	74	48	25	—	—
Killicum,	883	180	348	88	78	48	34	—	83	—	—	—
Killicum,	1,038	334	248	74	51	125	21	7	54	—	—	—
Killicum,	308	80	28	212	61	—	3	32	—	—	—	—
Killicum,	486	287	172	272	158	138	8	7	68	8	—	—
Killicum,	844	37	378	88	70	21	86	—	48	—	—	—
Killicum,	832	37	368	188	48	82	8	32	27	—	—	—
Killicum,	885	224	248	304	58	80	36	8	38	84	—	—
St. Martin's,	316	88	88	12	31	18	31	18	44	38	—	—
Valley,	418	38	28	208	82	214	38	24	34	—	—	—
Valley,	881	88	82	82	28	38	38	3	—	—	—	—
Total of Improved Electoral Divisions.	31,710	8,868	4,982	2,738	3,384	5,848	877	386	888	877	37	48
Total of Electoral Divisions.	31,710	8,868	4,982	2,738	3,384	5,848	877	888	885	877	37	48

IV.—TABLE showing the Population on each Class of Holdings in the County of Clare—continued.

APPENDIX II.

TOWNS AND RURAL DIVISIONS.	Total Population on Agricultural Holdings.	DECOMPOSITION OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO RENTALS VARIATIONS, AND POPULATION IN EACH CLASS.										
		Not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	
			Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.	Above 1/2 and not exceeding 1/2.
TOWNS.												
Ballinacorney,	396	12	35	12	15	14	10	—	32	35	—	—
Ballinacorney,	543	120	30	41	30	40	35	5	97	165	24	—
Ballinacorney,	515	15	30	35	4	35	10	0	30	20	—	—
Ballinacorney,	329	147	145	35	12	28	10	—	22	35	—	45
Ballinacorney,	485	25	155	113	115	35	45	5	41	2	—	—
Ballinacorney,	475	25	155	185	55	55	15	—	15	7	—	—
Ballinacorney,	555	55	85	75	55	135	35	5	35	75	25	—
Ballinacorney,	587	55	151	175	55	115	15	5	15	35	—	35
Ballinacorney,	575	55	85	45	35	41	31	14	45	65	—	—
Ballinacorney,	455	55	55	75	45	75	31	35	5	—	—	—
Ballinacorney,	555	75	155	75	55	55	37	10	55	25	55	41
Ballinacorney,	727	155	135	55	55	55	45	55	75	15	55	—
Ballinacorney,	325	5	57	55	45	55	10	55	15	—	—	—
Ballinacorney,	585	55	155	75	45	51	—	5	5	55	—	—
Ballinacorney,	475	55	135	55	55	37	55	55	35	—	25	—
Total of Non-Designated Electoral Divisions.	7,135	1,515	1,575	1,335	775	555	555	555	555	455	155	155
Total of Electoral Divisions.	7,135	1,515	1,575	1,335	775	555	555	555	555	455	155	155
RURAL DIVISIONS.												
Ballinacorney,	555	25	155	55	55	55	15	5	—	45	—	—
Ballinacorney,	455	55	175	135	57	75	27	15	—	15	—	—
Ballinacorney,	555	25	115	55	55	55	25	5	35	55	—	—
Ballinacorney,	555	155	75	—	5	15	15	—	—	—	—	—
Ballinacorney,	555	55	55	57	55	57	—	15	15	5	—	—
Ballinacorney,	555	—	55	45	55	5	10	—	55	5	—	—
Ballinacorney,	515	45	127	55	51	55	11	5	7	5	—	—
Ballinacorney,	555	55	51	55	51	55	15	55	55	15	—	—
Ballinacorney,	555	105	111	55	5	15	15	7	5	—	—	—
Ballinacorney,	555	45	55	45	55	55	10	11	55	5	—	—
Ballinacorney,	555	135	175	55	45	55	55	55	55	51	—	—
Ballinacorney,	555	127	57	55	55	15	1	45	—	—	—	—
Ballinacorney,	455	57	175	45	55	47	5	5	17	—	—	75
Ballinacorney,	57	—	25	25	5	15	15	—	—	—	—	—
Ballinacorney,	515	7	127	57	57	55	15	15	15	17	15	—
Ballinacorney,	555	141	75	45	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballinacorney,	555	55	127	155	175	105	155	7	35	15	—	—
Ballinacorney,	525	55	555	175	155	45	55	51	—	55	—	15
Total of Designated Electoral Divisions.	555	145	71	45	—	15	—	—	—	—	55	—
Total of Non-Designated Electoral Divisions.	7,135	1,515	1,575	1,335	775	555	555	555	555	455	155	155
Total of Electoral Divisions.	8,175	1,135	1,575	1,287	794	795	452	182	455	121	105	94

* Scheduled as Designated.

IV.—TABLE showing the Population on each Class of Holdings in the County of Clare.—continued.

TOWNS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Population on Agricultural Holdings.	CLASSIFICATION OF HOLDINGS ACCORDING TO RATESABLE VARIATION, AND POPULATION IN EACH CLASS.										
		Not stated in 1851.	Above 14 and not exceeding 210.	Above 210 and not exceeding 420.	Above 420 and not exceeding 630.	Above 630 and not exceeding 840.	Above 840 and not exceeding 1,050.	Above 1,050 and not exceeding 1,260.	Above 1,260 and not exceeding 1,470.	Above 1,470 and not exceeding 1,680.	Above 1,680 and not exceeding 1,890.	Above 1,890 and not exceeding 2,100.
TOTAL.												
Northmoat,	219	12	47	76	17	64	8	19	27	—	—	—
Belmashan,	606	18	123	119	68	36	27	44	48	—	—	14
Caher,	512	65	338	74	16	29	67	8	47	23	—	—
Clonsilla,	426	14	89	61	34	28	12	48	58	14	—	109
Doona,	554	48	42	22	91	11	21	4	47	8	13	11
Doonacree,	569	37	398	43	28	21	3	18	—	—	—	—
Kilballyn,	337	172	140	14	53	87	8	36	1	18	23	—
Kilbanna,	540	218	423	133	36	38	37	—	—	—	—	—
Kilbarn,	455	317	138	33	80	51	43	—	20	27	8	—
Kilbasson,	332	74	132	59	30	8	—	—	20	18	—	6
Kilt,	684	99	129	93	89	79	35	—	89	4	25	—
Loughan,	677	90	181	268	81	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
Naheen,	512	73	317	58	31	56	18	3	51	21	—	13
Quin,	633	234	81	86	59	60	13	14	28	16	8	2
Shallickree,	379	96	71	77	34	57	7	28	8	—	—	—
Swan,	255	25	55	55	32	37	58	35	27	17	8	2
Tallicherry,	219	47	38	58	65	18	1	14	15	8	—	—
Tulla,	838	393	168	34	72	58	38	—	28	—	—	17
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions.	8,598	1,434	5,547	1,296	858	956	193	318	541	183	86	19
Total of Congested Divisions.	8,598	1,434	5,547	1,296	858	956	403	535	541	183	86	190
Total of Congested Electoral Divisions in County.	253	141	71	49	—	16	—	—	—	—	82	—
Total of Non-Congested Electoral Divisions in County.	27,659	11,951	15,698	10,078	8,732	8,146	3,888	3,947	5,184	2,882	1,060	170
Total in County.	88,004	31,092	35,697	25,123	8,732	9,182	5,880	5,847	5,184	2,882	1,060	340

G.—TABLES SHOWING THE WORKING OF THE LAND ACTS IN CO. CLARE.

1. TABLE showing the Number of Cases in Co. Clare in which *Judicial Sales* have been held by all the *Methods* provided by the Land Law Acts, for First and Second Statutory Terms, from the commencement of Proceedings to 31st March, 1906; and also Summary of the Acreages, Rents of Holdings prior to the creation of First Statutory Terms, Rents of Holdings for a First Statutory Term, and Rents of Holdings for a Second Statutory Term. (Arranged from the Report of the Irish Land Commissioners for the year ending 31st March, 1906, pp. 72 and 74.)

First or Second Statutory Term.	Number of Cases in which Judicial Sales have been held.	Acreage, AVERAGE ACREAGE.	Rents of Holdings prior to creation of First Statutory Term.	Judicial Rents paid for a First Statutory Term.	Percentage of Reduction.	Judicial Rents paid for a Second Statutory Term.	Percentage of Reduction of Rents paid for a Second Statutory Term on Rents paid for a First Statutory Term.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
First Term. —	16,298	398,022 0 37.	254,138 10 4.	178,136 15 7	31.9	—	—
Second Term. —	2,079	138,842 0 17	21,321 0 5½	22,280 1 0	25.5	47,077 15 1	18.7

2. TABLE showing the Number of Loans issued in Co. Clare under the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1895 (Advances in Cash), the Number of Estates, and the Total Acreage and Rental of the Holdings in respect of which the Loans have been issued; also the Total Purchase-money and the Amount of Loans obtained from Land Commission, and the Number of Years' Purchase of Rent, during the Period from 2nd August, 1895, to 31st March, 1906.

During the four years ended the 31st March, 1906, there were no further proceedings towards purchase taken under this Act.

Taken from the Report of the Irish Land Commissioners for the year ended 31st March, 1906, p. 84.

Number of Loans.	Number of Estates.	Area in Statute Measures.	Net Rent (£s. d.)	Purchase-money agreed upon.	Amount of Loans.	Number of Years' Purchase of Rent.
		A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£	£	
102	20	5,142 0 35	2,859 4 11	41,059	41,000	18.7

(a) The Rents stated in this Return are the Rents paid by the Tenants previous to the sale, except in a few cases where the Tenants agreed to purchase subject to a Rent, Bonus, Gravel, Road, Drain Rent, or Eviction Charge or other outgoings previously payable by the Landlord, and in such cases the outgoings have been deducted from the Rents previously payable by the Tenants.

3. TABLE showing the Number of Loans issued in Co. Clare under the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Acts, 1891, 1895 (Advances in Guaranteed Land Stock), and the Total Acreage and Rental of the Holdings in respect of which the Loans have been issued; the Total Purchase-money and the Amount of Loans obtained from the Land Commission, and the Number of Years' Purchase of Rent, during the period ended 31st March, 1906.

Taken from the Report of the Irish Land Commissioners for the year ended 31st March, 1906, p. 115.

Number of Loans.	Area in Statute Measures.	Rent.	Purchase-money.	Amount of Loans.	Number of Years' Purchase of Rent.
	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£	£	
1,684	61,020 1 38	38,085 0 1	415,827	437,755	18.6

4. TABLE showing the Number of Loans issued in Co. Clare under the Irish Land Act, 1903 (exclusive of Estates Commissioners' transactions), the Total Acreage and Rental of Holdings in respect of which the Loans have been issued; also the Total Purchase-money, and the Amount of Loans obtained from the Land Commission, and the Number of Years' Purchase of Rent, during the period ending 31st March, 1906.

Taken from the Report of the Irish Land Commissioners for the year ended 31st March, 1906, p. 135.

Number of Loans.	Area in Statute Measures.	Rent.	Purchase-money.	Amount of Loans.	Number of Years' Purchase of Rent.
	A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£	£	
98	4,685 0 34	1,901 10 8	26,692	26,706	19.0

5.—Summary of Reports made by Report Commissioners in the County during the Season from 1st November, 1903, to 1st March, 1904

Taken from the Report of the Station Commissioner for Year ended 1st March, 1904, pp. 51 and 52.

COUNTY.	SUMMER GRAIN.					WINTER GRAIN, as reported by the Farmers.				SUMMER POTATOES, as reported by the Farmers.				WINTER POTATOES, as reported by the Farmers.					TOTAL.						
	No. of Acres of Wheat.	No. of Acres of Other Grains.	Product (Bushels)			No. of Acres of Wheat.	No. of Acres of Other Grains.	Product (Bushels)		No. of Acres of Wheat.	No. of Acres of Other Potatoes.	Product (Bushels)		No. of Acres of Wheat.	No. of Acres of Other Potatoes.	Product (Bushels)		No. of Acres of Wheat.	No. of Acres of Other Potatoes.	Product (Bushels)					
			Wheat.	Average of Wheat and Other Grains.				Wheat.	Average of Wheat and Other Grains.			Wheat.	Average of Wheat and Other Potatoes.			Wheat.	Average of Wheat and Other Potatoes.			Wheat.	Average of Wheat and Other Potatoes.				
Clark, Not Reported.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Co. (Not Reported)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				

The following detailed information as regards wheat was taken from the Report of the Station Commissioner for 1903 (pp. 10-12):—

In the County there are 10 holdings, subject to partial sale, fixed or agreed to before the 1st August, 1903 (commonly called First Term Rentals), according to Act No. 54, were sold at prices which were within the range, the average number of years' purchase being 10½, and the average percentage of reduction in the purchase money as compared with the rent being 10½.

In Clark county holdings, subject to a First Term Rent of £100, were sold at a price within the range, the number of years' purchase being 10½, and the reduction 10½ per cent, which is greater than the maximum rate reduction.

As regards holdings subject to sale fixed or agreed to after the 1st August, 1903 (commonly called Second Term Rentals), 10, subject to a rental of £100, were sold in Clark at a price within the range, the average number of years' purchase being 10½, and the percentage of reduction being 10½.

Two holdings, subject to a rental of £100, were sold at a price within the range for 10½ years' purchase, the percentage of reduction being 10½, i.e., a greater percentage than the maximum rental term rate reduction.

As regards non-partial sale, 10 holdings in Clark, subject to a rental of £100, were sold for an average of 10½ years' purchase, the average percentage of reduction being 10½.

In Clark two holdings, subject to a rental of £100, were sold for £100, of which £100 was paid in cash by the purchaser, and £100 was advanced by the Bank Local Committee. Over "purchaser" were sold in Clark under Section 5, sub-section (1).

H.—LOCAL TAXATION IN COUNTY CLARE.

The following STATEMENTS show (1) the Poor Rates in each Electoral Division in each Union for the financial years ending in 1881 and 1891; (2) County Cess in each Barony in the County in 1891 (there is no official information available as to County Cess in 1881); and (3) fuller details about the new Poor Rate for 1901 and 1905, but it must be pointed out that the Rates in 1881 and 1891 cannot be compared with the Rates in 1901 and 1905. Prior to the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, Poor Rate was charged to Electoral Divisions and County Cess to Baronies. New Union charges are levied over the whole Union, District charges on Rural Districts, County charges on the County, separate charges on special areas, and the whole is complicated by the changes made in the rates by the Local Government Act of 1928.

Before that Act the Poor Rate was paid by the tenant (except in the case of holdings valued at £4 and under, where the landlord paid), but the tenant was entitled to deduct part of the amount paid from his rent, usually half. County Cess was paid and borne by the occupier, except in the case of holdings let after the 1st August, 1870. In these cases if the holding was valued at over £4 the tenant paid, but was entitled to deduct from his rent part of the amount paid, usually one-half. If the holding was valued at £4 or under the County Cess was paid by the landlord.

Under the Act a Grant in Aid called the Agricultural Grant and amounting to £727,655 is made annually to the local authorities. This Grant is equal to half the combined Poor Rate and County Cess which was certified to be taken to have been raised off agricultural land in what is known as the standard financial year. The balance of the money required for purposes formerly met out of the County Cess and the Poor Rate is now provided by means of the new Poor Rate, County Cess being no longer collected as *scotages*.

The Act was intended to secure the benefit of the Agricultural Grant in respect of existing tenancies to the landlord as regards the old Poor Rate, and to the tenant as regards the County Cess. In order to effect this it was provided that in the case of tenancies existing at the 1st April, 1899, the tenant should, in general, pay the new Poor Rate, but that the rent should be adjusted in such a way as to secure to landlord and tenant their respective shares of the benefit of the Agricultural Grant. In the case of tenancies created after the 1st April, 1899, the tenant must, in general, pay the Poor Rate, and has no right to deduct anything from his rent. Where a fair rent is fixed after the 1st April, 1910, special provision is made by Section 55 to ensure permanently to the occupier and the landlord their respective benefits from the Agricultural Grant.

L.—STATEMENT showing the Poor Rate in the £ made in the Electoral Divisions of the Unions which are included wholly or partly in County Clare, for the Financial Years ended 1881 and 1891.

(Specially prepared by Local Government Board.)

NAME OF UNION.	Names of Electoral Divisions.	Poor Rate.		NAME OF UNION.	Names of Electoral Divisions.	Poor Rate.	
		1881.	1891.			1881.	1891.
BALLYVAUGHAN.	Abber.	2 12	2 8	ENGIN.	Claremor.	2 0	2 5
	Corra.	2 7	1 9		Clareagh.	1 11	1 9
	Castletown.	2 4	1 4		Crabtree.	2 20	2 7
	Drom.	2 8	2 12		Doon.	2 1	1 12
	Dromoreby.	4 4	2 10		Dromore.	1 0	1 0
	Glenduck.	2 8	2 0		Drom.	2 0	2 2
	Glenduck.	2 7	2 3		East Hill.	2 4	2 3
	Glenduck.	2 11	1 9		East Hill.	2 3	2 3
	Glenduck.	2 4	1 9		Furze.	2 4	2 3
	Glenduck.	2 0	2 5		Kilcher.	2 5	2 4
	Glenduck.	2 0	1 5		Kilcher.	1 11	2 3
CLARE.	Ballyvaughan.	2 9	1 12		Kilcher.	2 11	2 3
	Ballyvaughan.	2 10	1 12		Kilcher.	2 11	1 12
	Corra.	2 10	2 0		Kilcher.	2 5	1 5
	Glenduck.	2 3	1 0		Kilcher.	2 0	2 10
	Glenduck.	2 3	1 10		Kilcher.	2 0	2 3
	Glenduck.	1 7	1 5		Kilcher.	2 0	1 0
	Glenduck.	2 3	2 0		Kilcher.	2 0	2 0
	Glenduck.	2 3	1 10		Kilcher.	2 1	2 1
	Glenduck.	2 3	2 0		Kilcher.	1 8	1 0
	Glenduck.	2 3	2 0		Kilcher.	2 0	2 0
	Glenduck.	2 3	2 0		Kilcher.	2 0	2 0

* These rates provide for the year from March, 1880 to March, 1881.

† These rates provide for the year from March, 1890 to March, 1891.

APPENDIX II. I.—STATEMENT showing the Poor Rate in the £ made in the Electoral Divisions of the Unions which are included wholly or partly in County Clare, for the Financial Years ended 1881 and 1891—continued.

NAME OF UNION.	NAME OF ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Poor Rate.		NAME OF UNION.	NAME OF ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Poor Rate.	
		1881.	1891.			1881.	1891.
BECUMERSON.	Arnach, . . .	2 0	1 7	KILPATRICK, con.	Debris, . . .	2 11	3 3
	Ballynak, . . .	2 4	1 5		St. Martin's, . . .	1 30	2 7
	Ballynac, . . .	2 7	1 10		Tulla, . . .	2 6	2 3
	Ballynac, . . .	2 10	1 3		Tullymore, . . .	1 0	2 2
	Ballynac, . . .	2 1	2 2				
	Cahoon, . . .	2 7	1 9	KILPATRICK (part con.)	Ballymore, . . .	1 30	1 7
	Chomoch, . . .	2 11	1 7		Ballymore, . . .	1 0	1 10
	Chomoch, . . .	1 5	1 3		Cappella, . . .	2 9	1 3
	Chomoch, . . .	4 3	2 10		Chomoch, . . .	1 3	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	1 3		Chomoch, . . .	1 10	2 9
	Chomoch, . . .	2 10	2 6		Chomoch, . . .	1 10	2 9
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 4		Chomoch, . . .	1 4	1 11
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 3		Chomoch, . . .	2 7	1 10
	Chomoch, . . .	1 3	1 9		Chomoch, . . .	2 1	1 10
	Chomoch, . . .	3 0	2 4		Chomoch, . . .	1 11	2 0
	Chomoch, . . .	2 11	1 11		Chomoch, . . .	2 7	2 3
KILPATRICK.	Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 2	KILPATRICK, con.	Ayle, . . .	1 10	2 0
	Chomoch, . . .	4 0	3 3		Ballymore, . . .	1 0	2 10
	Chomoch, . . .	2 10	2 3		Chomoch, . . .	2 7	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	1 7	1 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 7	2 7
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 2	2 3
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 4		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	1 3
	Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 10		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 4	1 10		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 3		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 7	2 10		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	1 9		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 2		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
KILPATRICK.	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 7	KILPATRICK, con.	Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 11		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	1 7	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 3		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
KILPATRICK.	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 7	KILPATRICK, con.	Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 11		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	1 7	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 3		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1
	Chomoch, . . .	2 3	2 1		Chomoch, . . .	2 4	2 1

* These rates are to provide for the year from March, 1890 to March, 1891.
† These rates are to provide for the period from March, 1890 to July, 1891.

2.—STATEMENT showing the County Cost on each Barony of the County of Clare for the financial year ended in 1891.

(Specially supplied by Local Government Board.)

Name of Barony.	County Cost in 1891	
	s.	d.
Baronry, Lower,	2	1-17591
Baronry, Upper,	2	0-16176
Burren,	2	2-67938
Clonderlaw,	2	8-00791
Oconowree,	2	11-45777
Ipsican,	8	8-80803
Inchiquin,	9	8-70259
Islands,	2	10-72061
Moyarta,	3	2-37884
Tulla, Lower,	2	5-41891
Tulla, Upper,	2	4-68348

3.—STATEMENT showing the POOR RATES in Rural Districts during the year ended the 31st March, 1901, with the sums collected in respect thereof during that year, also the latest Valuation of each Rural District.

Taken from Local Taxation Returns, 1900-1, pp. 58 and 59.

RURAL DISTRICTS.	POOR RATE.										AMOUNT OF POOR RATE COLLECTED.			Valuation (1901).
	ON AGRICULTURAL LAND.				ON OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.				Additional rate for Sanitary Charges.	General Rate.	Sums for Sanitary Charges.	Total.		
	County Charges.	Tithes Charges.	District Charges.	Total.	County Charges.	Tithes Charges.	District Charges.	Total.						
Co. CLARE.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£	£	£	£	
Ballyvaughan.	0 0	0 12	0 0	5 0	1 0	2 0	1 8	4 8	0 6	5,128	886	4,000	10,319	
Canoe.	0 0	1 8	0 4	5 8	1 2	0 3	1 0	4 4	0 6	3,325	735	4,024	10,394	
Ennis.	0 9	1 8	0 4	0 8	1 0	0 8	1 8	4 8	0 4	11,570	1,690	20,000	33,260	
Knockree.	0 8	0 4	0 8	2 8	1 8	0 8	1 4	6 0	0 4	6,935	1,434	12,348	20,717	
Kilbeggs.	0 8	0 10	0 8	2 4	1 8	1 10	1 4	4 8	0 4	4,900	878	4,728	10,473	
Kilrush.	0 6	1 8	0 8	0 8	1 2	3 8	1 4	0 0	0 4	14,474	3,308	17,790	25,514	
Ennisock No. 1.	0 0	0 8	0 0	2 0	1 8	1 10	1 8	4 8	0 2	5,073	883	4,704	10,713	
Ennisock No. 2.	0 9	0 11	0 4	5 0	1 2	1 8	1 1	4 0	0 2	4,084	861	4,546	10,508	
Tulla.	0 0	0 11	0 8	0 8	2 8	1 10	2 1	6 8	0 4	4,854	941	4,475	10,370	
										64,128	12,890	74,378		

[...Statement showing the Receipts and Payments of each Ward District Depot in the State during the year ended the 31st of March, 1890, and the Balance of Issues due at the close of the year

Tolson, from David T. Garrow, *Jacobs*, 1984-85, pp. 43 and 45.

[illegible]

Re-statement showing particulars of the Balance of Loans due to the State Comptroller General at the close of the Financial Year ended the 31st of March, 1890, as declared by the Directors of these Loans.

Polson, David David, *Journal of Business*, 1994-5, page 47

Country	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
France	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

TABLE showing the Number of TENEMENTS of ONE ROOM, and the Number of OCCUPANTS of such TENEMENTS in each COUNTY DISTRICT and ELECTORAL DIVISION in the County of CLACK in 1901.

Taken from CLACK COUNTY CENSUS BOOK, pp. 74-5.

COUNTY DISTRICTS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Dwellings.	TENEMENTS OF ONE ROOM.											
		OCCUPANTS BY											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Persons and upwards.
		Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.
Total of County, ..	3,063	145	333	367	218	136	55	75	54	44	25	9	5
TOWN OF CLACK.													
Ward No. 1 Urban, ..	50	4	4	4	5	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Ward No. 2 Urban, ..	51	15	15	5	5	4	5	5	1	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 3 Urban, ..	5	5	5	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 4 Urban, ..	5	4	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total, ..	101	28	39	15	7	5	5	5	2	—	—	—	1
RURAL DISTRICT OF CLACK.													
Ward No. 1 Rural, ..	157	45	25	25	16	15	15	7	5	5	1	—	—
Total, ..	158	45	25	25	16	15	15	7	5	5	1	—	—
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT.													
Ward No. 1, ..	24	15	4	—	1	1	2	2	—	1	—	—	—
Ward No. 2, ..	5	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 3, ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 4, ..	7	1	—	3	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	1
Ward No. 5, ..	10	7	15	4	5	5	—	1	5	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 6, ..	5	5	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 7, ..	5	5	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 8, ..	4	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 9, ..	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 10, ..	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 11, ..	4	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total, ..	54	25	15	15	5	5	5	5	5	1	—	—	1
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT.													
Ward No. 1, ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 2, ..	5	1	5	5	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ward No. 3, ..	27	7	5	5	4	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 4, ..	5	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 5, ..	11	1	4	5	5	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 6, ..	2	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 7, ..	14	4	4	5	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 8, ..	5	5	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 9, ..	45	5	11	5	5	7	5	5	5	1	—	1	—
Total, ..	124	28	25	15	15	11	15	5	4	5	—	1	—
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT.													
Ward No. 1, ..	4	5	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 2, ..	5	1	5	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 3, ..	25	7	5	5	5	4	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 4, ..	5	4	5	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 5, ..	7	2	5	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 6, ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 7, ..	14	1	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ward No. 8, ..	5	5	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX II.

1.—Table showing the Number of TENEMENTS of ONE ROOM, and the Number of OCCUPANTS of such TENEMENTS in each COUNTY DISTRICT and ELECTORAL DIVISION in the County of CLARE in 1901—continued

COUNTY DISTRICTS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	TENEMENTS OF ONE ROOM.												
	Total Number.	CONTAINED BY											
		1 Person.	2 Persons.	3 Persons.	4 Persons.	5 Persons.	6 Persons.	7 Persons.	8 Persons.	9 Persons.	10 Persons.	11 Persons.	12 Persons and over.
EDDIS RURAL—continued.													
Kilbuck,	6	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	—
Kilbuck,	7	2	2	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kilbuck,	12	2	2	2	4	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Kilbuck,	6	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kilbuck,	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kilbuck,	12	4	4	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kilbuck,	7	2	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kilbuck,	16	10	2	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kilbuck,	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kilbuck,	5	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kilbuck,	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kilbuck,	6	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total,	279	40	40	20	20	15	6	3	4	2	5	—	—
EDDIS RURAL.													
Arish,	11	1	2	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bally,	12	2	2	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bally,	12	2	4	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
Bally,	10	—	2	2	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bally,	6	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Bally,	12	1	1	4	4	4	1	—	1	2	—	—	—
Bally,	7	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Bally,	4	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bally,	12	10	10	10	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	—	1
Bally,	4	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bally,	17	2	12	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bally,	2	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bally,	6	—	4	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bally,	6	1	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bally,	11	2	2	2	4	1	1	4	2	2	—	—	—
Bally,	6	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Bally,	2	1	1	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bally,	41	12	14	2	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bally,	12	2	11	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bally,	7	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total,	322	54	104	51	25	28	34	12	6	2	3	—	2
EDDIS RURAL.													
Bally,	2	2	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
Bally,	12	2	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bally,	2	2	4	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bally,	12	2	1	4	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Bally,	12	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Bally,	12	7	10	7	2	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Bally,	41	12	12	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bally,	12	4	2	—	2	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
Bally,	12	1	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Bally,	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bally,	12	1	2	—	2	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total,	162	42	82	24	11	7	2	2	3	2	1	—	—

TABLE showing the Number of TENEMENTS of ONE ROOM, and the Number of OCCUPANTS of such TENEMENTS in each COUNTY DISTRICT and ELECTORAL DIVISION in the County of CLARE in 1901.—continued.

COUNTY DISTRICTS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.		TENEMENTS OF ONE ROOM.												
		Total Persons.	CLASSIFIED BY											
			1 Person.	2 Persons.	3 Persons.	4 Persons.	5 Persons.	6 Persons.	7 Persons.	8 Persons.	9 Persons.	10 Persons.	11 Persons.	12 Persons and up- wards.
KILDEAR RURAL.														
Barrowish,	66	7	14	3	11	3	6	2	1	2	1	1	—	
Bandon,	14	4	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Bannock,	8	3	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	
Brinsford,	27	3	7	4	8	1	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Brinsford,	11	3	2	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Brinsford,	21	7	12	2	8	2	—	2	1	—	1	1	—	
Brinsford,	22	3	3	3	—	1	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	
Brinsford,	35	3	3	2	2	3	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	
Brinsford,	60	10	10	10	2	4	5	7	2	2	2	—	—	
Brinsford,	17	3	4	4	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Brinsford,	22	12	14	10	2	2	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	
Brinsford,	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Brinsford,	23	6	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	
Brinsford,	64	7	3	22	7	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	
Brinsford,	18	10	11	1	2	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	
Brinsford,	13	3	4	2	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	
Brinsford,	22	3	3	2	1	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	
Brinsford,	24	3	2	2	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Brinsford,	4	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Brinsford,	4	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Brinsford,	20	3	7	2	2	4	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	
Brinsford,	13	4	4	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Brinsford,	7	3	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Brinsford,	16	2	2	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Brinsford,	12	7	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Brinsford,	13	4	2	2	4	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	
Brinsford,	6	1	2	1	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Total,	180	120	148	66	73	33	27	24	22	22	7	4	2	
MAINTON NO. 2 RURAL.														
Ballinacorney,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ballinacorney,	11	4	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Ballinacorney,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ballinacorney,	4	1	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ballinacorney,	10	4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	—	—	2	—	
Ballinacorney,	3	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ballinacorney,	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ballinacorney,	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	
Ballinacorney,	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ballinacorney,	6	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ballinacorney,	14	2	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Ballinacorney,	3	4	2	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ballinacorney,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ballinacorney,	12	7	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Ballinacorney,	12	7	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total,	107	33	24	5	17	3	7	2	1	3	1	1	—	
MAINTON NO. 3 RURAL.														
Ayle,	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ballinacorney,	14	7	4	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ballinacorney,	7	1	4	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

APPENDIX II.
I.—TABLE showing the Number of TENEMENTS of ONE ROOM, and the Number of OCCUPANTS of such TENEMENTS in each COUNTY DISTRICT and ELECTORAL DIVISION in the County of CLARE in 1901—continued.

COUNTY DISTRICTS AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Total Number.	TENEMENTS OF ONE ROOM.											
		CLASSIFIED BY											
		1 Persons.	2 Persons.	3 Persons.	4 Persons.	5 Persons.	6 Persons.	7 Persons.	8 Persons.	9 Persons.	10 Persons.	11 Persons.	12 Persons and upwards.
SEAGHURTS TOWNSHIP—continued.													
Caherapark,	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cappachaleen,	3	2	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Carroonham,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Charmaton,	4	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coobagh,	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Orlea,	3	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Doynaghflack,	3	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Derreenan,	6	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fielda,	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Islandstown, North, ..	4	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Islandstown, South, ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Killicole,	17	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marinabeg,	4	2	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Quonaglin,	7	2	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarriff,	11	2	2	4	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Total,	127	45	16	13	7	5	5	1	2	—	2	—	—
TOWNSHIP TOWNSHIP.													
Ballydoon,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ballydoonagh,	3	1	4	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cahin,	4	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cooney,	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dunagee,	3	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glenties,	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Killicole,	3	2	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Killicole,	10	2	2	2	1	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
Killicole,	2	2	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Killicole,	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kyle,	7	2	2	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Loughan,	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Longford,	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Qah,	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rathfriland,	2	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Rooske,	6	—	2	4	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Townlands,	10	4	4	2	4	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Tulla,	12	12	2	4	6	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total,	144	47	35	25	14	13	5	5	5	1	—	—	—

TABLE SHOWING THE AGE OF PERSONS IN EACH COUNTY DISTRICT IN THE COUNTY OF GLASGOW ON THE FIRST OF THE 1st OF MARCH, 1901

Taken from Glasgow County Census Book, p. 80

County District	Population		Age Groups																							
	Male	Female	Total	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-99	100+	Total	Male
1. South, Town	5,000	5,000	10,000	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
2. North, Town	5,000	5,000	10,000	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
3. Central, Town	5,000	5,000	10,000	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
4. Suburban, North	5,000	5,000	10,000	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
5. Central, South	5,000	5,000	10,000	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
6. North, South	5,000	5,000	10,000	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
7. Suburban, South	5,000	5,000	10,000	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
8. Central, North	5,000	5,000	10,000	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
9. Central, South	5,000	5,000	10,000	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
10. North, North	5,000	5,000	10,000	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
11. North, South	5,000	5,000	10,000	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
12. South, North	5,000	5,000	10,000	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
13. South, South	5,000	5,000	10,000	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

11

12

APPENDIX II.

K.—OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

There is a large amount of detailed information concerning the Occupations of the People given in the Co. CLARE Census Book (pp. 88-96), from which the following particulars are extracted:—

MALES.							FEMALES.							
OCCUPATIONS.	Total.	Ages.					OCCUPATIONS.	Total.	Ages.					
		Under 15 years.	15 and under 20.	20 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.			65 and upwards.	Under 15 years.	15 and under 20.	20 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
PERSONS ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE.							PERSONS ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE.							
1. In Fields and Pastures.							1. In Fields and Pastures.							
Farmer, Grazier, ..	11,126	4	76	506	5,459	8,232	Farmer, Grazier, ..	5,963	—	5	53	877	1,164	20
Farmer's, Grazier's—Son, Grandson, Nephew, Brother Farm Bailiff, ..	9,045	—	5,480	3,007	3,849	173	Agricultural Labourer, Out-tenant, ..	57	—	3	4	18	16	8
Agricultural Labourer, Out-tenant, ..	4,618	10	436	180	1,218	139	Shepherdess, ..	12	—	1	—	—	7	6
Shepherd, ..	128	2	9	13	74	79	Home Servant (In-door), ..	240	15	67	48	78	26	13
Home Servant (In-door), ..	3,945	17	425	404	885	343	Others engaged in, or connected with, Agriculture, ..	87	—	—	1	8	19	15
Others engaged in, or connected with, Agriculture, ..	68	—	5	5	18	14								
2. In Gardens.														
Gardener (not Domestic), ..	24	—	1	5	15	17								
PERSONS ENGAGED ABOUT ANIMALS.							PERSONS ENGAGED ABOUT ANIMALS.							
About Animals.							About Animals.							
Horse—Farrier, Blacksmith, ..	5	—	—	1	1	—	Deer, Wild, Antelope—Keeper, Hunter, ..	4	—	—	—	1	2	—
Deer, Wild, Antelope—Keeper, Hunter, ..	80	—	5	5	5	6	Farrier, ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Farrier, ..	15	—	—	5	5	5								
Veterinary Surgeon, Farrier, ..	81	—	5	5	45	13								
Cattle—Sheep, Pig—Keeper, ..	5	—	1	—	2	3								
Sheep, ..	52	—	5	4	18	15								
Sheepkeeper, ..	5	—	—	1	1	—								
Dog, Wild Animal, Keeper, ..	207	3	87	14	104	23								
Falconer, ..	—	—	—	—	—	—								
PERSONS WORKING AND DEALING IN TEXTILE FABRICS.							PERSONS WORKING AND DEALING IN TEXTILE FABRICS.							
1. Wool and Worsted.							1. Wool and Worsted.							
Woolen Cloth Manufacturers, ..	68	—	7	6	32	12	Woolen Cloth Manufacturers, ..	14	—	1	—	1	4	8
Others, ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	Others, ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
2. Cotton and Flax.							2. Cotton and Flax.							
Cotton, Cotton Goods—Manufacturers, ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	Cotton, Cotton Goods—Manufacturers, ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Flax, Linnen—Manufacturers—(Weaving processes), ..	1	—	—	—	—	1								
3. Mixed or Unspecified Materials.							3. Mixed or Unspecified Materials.							
Woolen Goods (Textile)—Manufacturers, ..	5	—	—	—	5	4	Woolen Goods (Textile)—Manufacturers, ..	5	—	1	—	5	—	—
Deeper, Linnen Deeper, Makers, ..	508	1	64	42	88	18	Deeper, Linnen Deeper, Makers, ..	65	—	8	14	17	19	8
Fancy Goods (Textile)—Manufacturers, ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	Fancy Goods (Textile)—Manufacturers, ..	4	—	1	—	—	3	—
Others, ..	16	—	—	—	—	—	Others, ..	16	—	—	5	6	6	1
GENERAL LABOURERS (a).							GENERAL LABOURERS (a).							
GENERAL LABOURERS (a),	5,811	20	518	63	796	128	GENERAL LABOURERS (a),	10	—	5	5	16	16	4

(a) The majority of these "General Labourers" may be assumed to be Agricultural Labourers, although not having returned themselves as such.

N.—STATE-AIDED EMIGRATION.

It may be as well to explain that under 12 and 13 Vic., cap. 104, sec. 26, Boards of Guardians were empowered to apply parts of the rates and to borrow money "for the purpose of defraying, or assisting to defray, the expenses of the emigration of poor persons."

Under the *Assessors of Rent (Ireland) Act, 1882* (15 and 16 Vic., cap. 47), power was given to borrow from Public Funds on *exchequer* terms for the above purpose, and the Treasury might authorise the Commissioners of Public Works to make grants to Boards of Guardians for the same purposes, the total grants not to exceed £100,000, and the same granted not to exceed £5 for each person. The grants were confined to the nine counties, part of which are at present scholified as congested, the Unions of Bohernabreena, Newpark, Swinford, Clifden, and Oughterard being specially mentioned.

Under the *Tramways and Public Companies (Ireland) Act, 1883* (46 and 47 Vic., c. 45), the limit of the grant was increased to £200,000, of which one-quarter might be applied for the purpose of migrating "persons or families," and the limit of individual grants was increased to £8.

The total grants made under these sections amounted to £133,173 10s. 2d. up to 1894, when they were repealed by Section 25 of the *Land Act of 1894*, which established the Congested Districts Board.

The following TABLE shows the total number of State-aided Emigrants from Clare in 1883 and in 1884, and the amount of Grant to each Union.

(Supplied by the Local Government Board.)

UNION.	EMIGRATION SEASON, 1883.			EMIGRATION SEASON, 1884.			Total.	Total Grant.
	Canada.	America.	United States.	Canada.	America.	United States.		
Ballyvaughan.	15	280	30	—	—	—	435	£ 2,815 10 0
Beara.	119	25	67	—	—	—	211	1,460 10 0
	234	305	97	—	—	—	636	£ 4,275 10 0

The following RETURN shows the Number of Consents of the Local Government Board to the expenditure of sums out of the Rates to assist in defraying the expenses of the emigration of poor persons from the County of Clare during the year ended 31st March, 1884.

UNION.	Sums authorised to be expended.	Number of Persons assisted.
	£ s. d.	
Beara.	48 0 0	36

1. Table showing, by Farm Land District, the Extent of Farm lands owned in the County of Cheshire in the Year 1890, the Valuation in 1890, and the Population in 1891

Values from Agricultural Statistics, 1890, pp. 34, 35, 36, and 38-41

FARM LAND DISTRICTS	PERCENTAGE OF FARM LANDS OWNED																				POPULATION IN 1891			
	FARM OWNERS								FARM TENANTS												Total		Males	Females
	Arable	Pasture	Woods	Water	Other	Buildings	Other	Other	Arable	Pasture	Woods	Water	Other	Buildings	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other
Warrington	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Crewe	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Northwich	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Widnes	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Stretford	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Altrincham	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Stockport	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Manchester	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
South	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* This column is divided equally between the two main groups of the County, the North and the South.

2. Table showing, by Farm Land District, the Extent of the Open in the County of Cheshire in the Year 1890 (pp. 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35)

FARM LAND DISTRICTS	PERCENTAGE OF OPEN LAND																				POPULATION IN 1891			
	FARM OWNERS								FARM TENANTS												Total		Males	Females
	Arable	Pasture	Woods	Water	Other	Buildings	Other	Other	Arable	Pasture	Woods	Water	Other	Buildings	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other
Warrington	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Crewe	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Northwich	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Widnes	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Stretford	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Altrincham	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Stockport	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Manchester	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
South	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* This column is divided equally between the two main groups of the County, the North and the South.

4.—TABLE showing the QUANTITY OF LIVE STOCK for the COUNTY of CLARE in each Year from 1896-1905.
Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1906, pp. 98-9.

Year.		NUMBER OF HORSES.			MULCH AND ASSES.		NUMBER OF CATTLE.			NUMBER OF SHEEP.		NUMBER OF PIGS.		No. of COWS.	No. of POULTRY.
		Two years old and upwards.	One year old and under two.	Under one year.	No. of Mares.	No. of Asses.	Two years old and upwards.	One year old and under two.	Under one year.	One year old and upwards.	Under one year.	One year old and upwards.	Under one year.		
CLARE.	1896	12,159	3,455	2,548	322	11,674	37,393	6,247	644-2	71,555	41,697	5,460	37,502	18,378	400,329
Do.	1897	12,918	3,519	2,733	324	11,366	36,796	6,511	6,663	69,247	42,419	5,566	36,860	18,327	427,054
Year 1896-97—	1898	13,093	3,542	2,574	310	11,579	34,561	6,355	6,641	66,222	41,137	5,500	34,848	18,481	430,481
18,362 Acres.	1899	13,321	3,549	2,579	305	12,415	34,465	6,154	6,245	66,821	42,890	5,373	34,219	17,892	423,421
Do.	1900	12,587	3,523	2,556	304	12,262	35,773	6,577	6,587	70,455	41,455	5,555	33,731	18,024	429,367
Year 1899-1900—	1901	12,468	3,505	2,544	300	12,207	36,154	6,536	6,733	72,647	42,504	5,737	36,308	18,532	426,401
18,356 Acres.	1902	11,890	3,492	2,484	305	12,093	34,408	6,426	6,752	71,475	41,974	5,658	34,873	18,035	415,399
Year 1900-1901—	1903	11,306	3,761	2,600	379	10,603	39,623	6,534	6,395	69,738	42,428	7,075	37,308	18,625	431,121
18,332 Acres.	1904	12,051	3,796	2,580	327	12,264	39,278	6,659	6,669	69,687	41,502	6,598	36,308	17,700	425,371
Do.	1905	12,355	3,621	2,595	322	11,973	38,363	6,426	6,265	69,269	42,378	5,712	34,148	17,479	420,743

5.—TABLE showing the NUMBER of HOLDINGS EXCEEDING ONE ACRE, and EXTENT OF LAND under CROPS, in the COUNTY of CLARE each Year from 1896-1905.

Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1906, pp. 54-5.

EXTENT UNDER CROPS IN STATUTE ACRES IN EACH YEAR FROM 1896 TO 1905.																
Year.	No. of Holdings exceeding 1 Acre.	CEREALS, BEANS, AND FRAGE.						OTHER CROPS.							Total Extent under Crops.	
		Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Barn.	Peas.	Beans and Peas.	Total.	Potatoes.	Turnips.	Mangel Wurzel and Root Crops.	Other Green Crops.	Total Green Crops.	Flax.		Meadow and Clover.
CLARE.	1896	16,039	781	12,786	695	5	1,696	8	16,361	36,217	5,263	3,074	24,332	2	50,581	166,585
Area,	1897	16,062	874	12,659	686	5	1,672	12	16,896	35,886	5,750	3,423	25,960	1	50,471	159,138
Year 1896-97—	1898	16,062	1,064	12,559	695	7	1,596	34	16,420	35,736	5,264	3,396	26,440	4	50,416	162,511
18,356 Acres.	1899	17,039	1,235	12,508	693	8	1,600	27	16,035	34,211	5,235	3,379	26,600	—	50,488	145,921
Do.	1900	17,263	1,265	11,185	624	—	1,626	19	15,497	34,556	4,846	3,253	26,216	—	50,598	145,598
Year 1899-1900—	1901	17,467	1,203	11,485	579	9	1,569	1	15,268	34,619	4,438	3,232	26,208	—	50,526	140,627
18,356 Acres.	1902	17,375	996	10,187	655	6	1,516	6	15,032	33,868	4,427	3,233	26,216	2	50,526	141,951
Year 1900-1901—	1903	17,210	868	10,385	716	9	1,426	13	15,535	31,713	4,476	3,176	25,644	—	50,581	143,836
18,332 Acres.	1904	17,560	660	10,251	625	1	1,473	6	15,264	31,387	4,444	3,269	25,660	—	50,602	146,641
Do.	1905	17,429	605	10,415	473	—	1,479	2	15,668	31,676	4,258	3,253	26,460	—	50,527	158,071

6.—TABLE showing the AVERAGE RATES of PRODUCE of CROPS in the COUNTY of CLARE in each Year from 1896-1905.

Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1906, pp. 70-71.

Year.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Barn.	Peas.	Beans.	Potatoes.	Turnips.	Mangel.	Swedes.	Root Crops.	Cabbages.	Flax.	Hay.
	Cwt. 112 lbs.	Cwt. 112 lbs.	Cwt. 112 lbs.	Cwt. 112 lbs.	Cwt. 112 lbs.	Cwt. 112 lbs.	Cwt. 112 lbs.	Cwt. 112 lbs.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Straw, 34 lbs.	Tons.
CLARE.	1896	21.9	18.9	13.5	14.6	30.9	18.1	25.5	38	12.1	18.9	94	36.6	1.2
Do.	1897	21.5	12.5	13.5	13.6	30.9	—	12	18.4	16.6	16.6	76	36.9	3.9
Year 1896-97—	1898	27.9	17.9	18.9	13.6	11.9	26.0	—	16	14.2	16.6	94	36.6	3.9
18,356 Acres.	1899	19.4	17.4	17.9	13.6	17.4	26.5	—	43	12.1	16.6	94	—	2.5
Do.	1900	17.4	16.4	16.4	—	17.9	17.9	12	12.5	16.6	16.6	94	—	3.9
Year 1899-1900—	1901	17.9	16.3	16.2	13.6	16.9	26.0	—	40	13.5	16.6	16.6	—	3.9
18,356 Acres.	1902	17.9	16.3	16.5	13.6	16.9	26.0	—	45	10.4	16.6	16.6	36.2	2.2
Year 1900-1901—	1903	17.4	16.9	16.3	13.6	17.9	26.0	—	37	10.7	16.6	16.6	—	3.9
18,332 Acres.	1904	17.1	16.9	16.9	13.6	17.1	26.0	—	26	13.9	16.6	16.6	—	3.9
Do.	1905	16.4	16.7	16.2	—	11.1	11.1	—	46	14.6	16.6	—	—	2.2

APPENDIX II 7.—TABLE showing by POOR LAW UNIONS for the COUNTY OF CLARE the proportion per cent. under Oats (including Meadow and Clover), Grass, Fallow, Woods and Plantations, Turf Bog, Marsh, Broom Mountain Land, and Water, Roads, Fences, &c., in 1905

Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1906, pp. 30-33.

POOR LAW UNIONS.	Proportion per cent. under							
	Oats, (including Meadow and Clover)	Grass.	Fallow.	Woods and Plantations.	Turf Bog.	Marsh.	Broom Mountain Land.	Water, Roads, Fences, &c.
Ballyvaughan,	6.9	35.9	.	6.0	1.6	0.4	39.7	15.5
Caroline,	11.7	32.3	.	1.9	3.1	1.9	31.9	18.2
Ennis,	20.2	42.9	.	3.9	1.2	1.2	4.9	25.7
Enniskeen,	11.1	32.9	.	6.1	3.9	1.1	3.9	39.0
Gladyssart,	11.1	32.0	.	6.0	3.1	1.1	3.9	39.0
Glinsk,	10.6	33.5	.	6.4	3.6	0.9	4.1	39.9
Ilminster,	23.9	31.3	0.1	3.0	3.4	0.9	4.1	35.5
Scarliff,	19.7	34.3	.	1.9	3.5	0.7	39.9	29.9
Tulla,	15.4	32.3	.	1.5	4.3	1.7	9.9	35.9
Total for Co. Clare, . .	15.1	35.3	.	3.9	3.2	1.3	9.9	34.9
Total for Ireland, . . .	22.9	32.1	.	3.9	3.3	2.6	11.1	34.9

8.—STATEMENT as to Sires, Bulls, and Boars.

Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1905.

The number of Sires in County Clare serving Mares in 1905 (pp. 114-5) was as follows:—

Thoroughbred,	13
Half-bred,	35
Hackney,	4
Shire,	1
Clydesdale,	11
Agriculture,	13
All others,	10
Total,	87

The number of Bulls of the principal breeds, &c., in County Clare in 1905 (pp. 116-7) was as follows:—

Shorthorn,	339
Hereford,	9
Aberdeen Angus,	4
Norfolk and Suffolk Red Polled,	3

Kerry,	1
Dexter,	1
Guernsey, Jersey, and Alderney,	—
Cross Breed or not included in foregoing,	91
Total,	103

The number of Boars kept for breeding purposes in County Clare in 1905 (pp. 118-9) was as follows:—

White pigs,	29
Black pigs,	1
Tawny or brown pigs,	—
Cross-bred,	6
Boars not coming under any of the foregoing heads,	1
Total,	36

9.—STATEMENT showing the Total Area under each of the principal varieties of Potatoes grown in County Clare, and the Average Rate of Produce per statute acre in cwt. of 112 lbs.

Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1906, pp. 129-31 and 128-9.

Variety.	Acreage.	Average Rate of Produce in cwt.	Variety.	Acreage.	Average Rate of Produce in cwt.
Champion,	11,000	86	Brass,	—	—
Up-to-Date,	827	86	Champion Starling,	—	—
Beauty of Peas,	998	76	Northern Gem,	—	—
Flower,	1,093	83	Elephant or White Elephant,	30	38
Salter, or Salter's Abundance,	58	77	Early Rose,	20	38
Sherry Rose,	179	76	Gowling,	—	—
Irish Wonder,	187	68	Main Crop,	—	—
British Queen,	75	58	All others,	1,581	—
American Rose,	17	53			

10.—BEE-KEEPING STATISTICS.

APPENDIX II.

TABLE showing, for the COUNTY CLARE, the Number of BEECHES in the Middle of May, 1904; the Number of SWARMS during 1904; the Number of BEECHES at the beginning of Winter, 1904, and the Number brought through Winter, 1904-1905; with the Quantity of HONEY produced and of WAX manufactured in 1904.

Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1905, pp. 132-3.

Number of BEECHES in the middle of May, 1904.		Number of SWARMS during 1904.		Number of BEECHES at beginning of Winter, 1904.		Number of BEECHES brought through Winter, 1904-1905.		Honey produced in 1904, in lbs.		Honey produced in 1904, in lbs.		Wax manufactured in 1904 in lbs. (Quantity of Wax melted or converted into the bees-wax at Claremarket for household use).	
In Hives having movable combs.	In other Hives.	In Hives having movable combs.	In other Hives.	In Hives having movable combs.	In other Hives.	In Hives having movable combs.	In other Hives.	In Hives having movable combs.	In other Hives.	In Hives having movable combs.	In other Hives.	Wax from Hives having movable combs.	Wax from other Hives.
118	262	216	271	425	295	308	245	614	1,680	4,611	1,510	—	—

11.—TABLE showing, for the COUNTY CLARE, the AREA PLANTED with TREES, and the AREA CLEARED during the year ended 30th June, 1905, and the Number of each description of TREES PLANTED or Felled.

Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1905, pp. 136-9.

		Number and Description of Trees Planted or Felled.												
		Average Planted or Cleared.	Total No. of Trees.											
				Larch.	Fir.	Spruce.	Pine.	Oak.	Ash.	Beech.	Yew- more.	Elm.	Other Trees.	Mixed Trees, No. of each kind un- specified.
Planted.	Acres.	12	23,716	2,740	2,118	—	—	1,230	800	800	1,400	—	—	7,516
Felled.	Acres.	8	2,508	1,420	—	800	300	30	300	—	—	—	—	—

F.—WAGES OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS IN COUNTY CLARE IN 1905.

Inquiries were made as to the Wages paid per day to Agricultural Labourers in 1905, and the information received from the District Inspectors of the Royal Irish Constabulary with reference to their respective districts is shown in the following Table and the Notes appended thereto.

Taken from Agricultural Statistics, 1905, pp. 154-5.

CONSTABULARY DISTRICTS.	SUMMER.								WINTER.							
	Men.		Boys.		Women.		Girls.		Men.		Boys.		Women.		Girls.	
	From.	To.	From.	To.	From.	To.	From.	To.	From.	To.	From.	To.	From.	To.	From.	To.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Ballinacorney.	1 0	2 4	1 0	1 10	1 3	1 7	0 10	1 2	1 8	1 8	1 1	1 3	1 1	1 2	0 10	1 1
Carrick.	1 10	2 8	1 8	1 8	1 3	1 7	0 11	1 2	1 2	1 8	0 10	1 1	0 10	1 1	0 7	0 11
Ennis.	1 0	2 0	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8
Ennisismore.	1 4	2 2	1 3	1 8	1 8	1 8	0 10	1 0	1 2	1 8	0 11	1 3	1 8	1 1	0 8	0 10
Kilbally.	1 10	2 4	1 3	1 8	1 8	1 7	1 4	1 5	1 4	1 8	0 10	1 3	1 8	1 8	0 8	0 11
Kilbally.	1 7	2 2	1 1	1 8	1 8	1 8	0 8	1 0	1 2	1 8	0 8	1 1	1 8	1 8	0 8	0 10
Kilbally.	1 8	2 3	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 2	1 8	1 8	1 8	0 8	1 0	0 8	0 10
Tulla (A).	1 0	2 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	0 10	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8	1 8

(A) Very little agricultural employment for women and girls in winter.

(B) No women or girls employed.

Q.—INFORMATION AS TO SCHEMES OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION OPERATING IN COUNTY CLARE IN 1906.

APPENDIX II.

(Specially supplied by the Department.)

Names of Schemes and their respective cost.

Scheme.	Estimated Cost to Joint Fund administered by County Committee.
General Instruction in Agriculture,	£
Poultry,	100
Buttermaking,	50
Cottages and Farm Prizes,	200
Blackstock,	200
Scholarships to Schools,	150

ITINERANT INSTRUCTION.

Three Instructors are employed in County Clare, viz., one in Agriculture, one in Poultry-keeping, and one in Buttermaking.

HOME-SEEDINGS.

The following stallions are located in the County in connection with the Department's Scheme:—

Sex.	Name of Stallion.	Loaded with.
Thoroughbred,	Alvin,	Mr. E. W. D'Almeida, Knockbidge.
Do.,	Old Oak,	
Do.,	*H. B. H.,	Mr. P. J. Howard, Ennis.
Do.,	*Gold,	
Do.,	Tom Steel,	Mr. J. Reidy, Newmarket-on-Fergus*
Half-bred,	Big Red II.,	Mr. P. O'Brien, Kilrush.
Do.,	*Kilodyke,	Mr. M. O'Sullivan, Labasheeda.

* Supplied by Department under their Loan Scheme.

The County Committee have provided 120 free nominations of mares, and the animals were selected at the following centres:—

Centre.	Nominations provided.
Ennis,	50
Kilrush,	15
Ennistymon,	21
Dromed,	12
Scurlif,	5
Tulla,	25

CATTLE-SEEDING.

Prizebulls are loaded with the under-mentioned persons for the year 1907:—

COUNTY PRIZEBULLS.

Name of Owner.	Address.
Robert W. Greene,	Dunm, Ennis.
Patrick Shannon,	Killineagh, Ennistymon.
Patrick Burke,	Tullaherack, Moyasta.
Michael O'Shaughnessy,	Stevenson, Labasheeda.
Thomas O'Doherty,	Oloonastrum, Miltown-Malbay.
Patrick Green,	Tierownness, O'Callaghan's Mills, Sixmile bridge.
James McClanay,	Miltown-Malbay.
Thomas Reidy,	Garruragh, Tulla.
Thomas McNamara,	Lisycussey.
Patrick Donnellan, B.	Backfield, Belvoir, Sixmilebridge.
Barry. Shahan,	Fahy, O'Brien's Bridge.
Thomas Oulligan,	Sunnagh, Craheen.
Denis M'Namara,	Rahenagh, O'Connell's, Killybeg.
Michael Cahill,	Lismorris, Lisycussey, Ennis.
Thomas Hogan,	Oaherina, Backfield, Ennis.
Thomas D. Cahill,	Oaherelane, Killybeg.
John Lynch,	Latoon, Newmarket-on-Fergus.

SWINE-BREEDING SCHEME.

APPENDIX B.

The County Committee decided not to put the Swine-breeding Scheme into operation.

POULTRY.

Names and addresses of Station Holders (Hens and Ducks) under the Poultry Scheme, 1936-7.

Names.	Address.
Mrs. Kate Brady,	Tongrany.
Mr. T. Conba,	Craice.
Mr. P. Connolly,	Buskey Vale, Lakhish.
Miss Dowling,	Dangan, Ballynashilly.
Mrs. Hayes,	Lisa, Caher, Baskie.
Mr. Lingard,	Cooga, Corofin.
Mr. J. O'Brien,	Leeds, Miltown-Malbay.
Mrs. O'Callaghan,	Creevagh, Quinn.
Mr. Thom. O'Doherty,	Clonsdra, Miltown-Malbay.
Mr. T. Power,	Querrin, Lisheen Cross.
Mr. M. Quinlan,	Garrynagh, Tulla.
Mrs. Stoney,	Rathlathra, Newmarket.
Mr. P. Vaughan,	Ross, O'Brien's Bridge.
Mrs. Finucane,	Shanaway, Ennis.

TURKEY STATION HOLDERS.

James Blackhall,	Enniscannon.
Miss Dowling,	Dangan, Ballynashilly.
Mrs. Finucane,	Shanaway, Ennis.
Mrs. Mary Hayes,	Lisa, Caher, Baskie.
Miss Hobbs,	Clonsdra, Ballynashilly.
Mrs. B. Hogan,	Tongrany.
Mrs. Hogan,	Cooga, Corofin.
Mr. Ross Lingard,	Ballynashilly, Lisheen Cross.
Mrs. Martinson,	Leeds, Miltown-Malbay.
John O'Brien,	Creevagh, Quinn.
Mrs. E. O'Callaghan,	Clonsdra, Miltown-Malbay.
Mr. O'Doherty,	Querrin, Lisheen Cross.
T. Power,	Ross, O'Brien's Bridge.
P. Vaughan,	Dara, Ennis.
Mrs. Woods,	

B.—NOTE ON MIGRATORY LABOURERS.

The special characteristics of the temporary migration of agricultural labourers from the congested districts, which distinguish it from apparently similar movements of labour in other counties and from the ordinary examples of the mobility of labour in other trades, have been briefly discussed in the Donegal Statistical Abstract (see Appendix to Second Report of Commission, [Cd. 3319, 1907], pp. 314-5). The total number of persons (including females) who had temporarily migrated from Ireland, or who at the time of the collection of the Agricultural Statistics in 1906 had expressed their intention of subsequently migrating, was 15,386. Of this number 1 was resident in Clare. He was the son of a landholder, who worked on his parents' farm when at home. The following Table, taken from the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture on Irish Migratory Labourers for 1906 (pp. 34-5), gives further information on the subject:—

POOR LAW UNIONS.	Number of Mi- gratory Agricultural labour- ers not land- holders.	NUMBER OF MIGRATORY AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS HAVING LAND, AND AREA OF THEIR HOLDINGS.										Total Number of Mi- gratory Agricultural labour- ers.	WHERE EMPLOYED.			Number of Mi- gratory Agricultural labour- ers who had not left their homes at the time of the inquiry, re- lated in the preceding column.
		Not exceeding 1 acre.	Above 1 and not exceed- ing 5 acres.	Above 5 and not exceed- ing 10 acres.	Above 10 and not exceed- ing 20 acres.	Above 20 and not exceed- ing 30 acres.	Above 30 and not exceed- ing 40 acres.	Above 40 and not exceed- ing 50 acres.	Above 50 and not exceed- ing 60 acres.	Above 60 and not exceed- ing 70 acres.	Above 70 acres.		In England.	In Scotland.	Overseas.	
County,	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Total	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-

B.—STATISTICS OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

1. STATEMENT showing Statistics of Co-operative Creameries in Co. Clare in 1905.

Taken from the Report of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society for the year ended 30th June, 1906.

No.	NAME.	Date of Establishment.	Members.	Paid-up Share Capital.	Loan Capital.	Turnover.	Observations.
1	Georgeshill and Doonbeg,	1905	8	—	—	—	Not commenced working
2	Glacree,	1905	20	—	—	—	
3	Clashmore, Co.	1905	8	—	—	—	
4	Doonbeg, Co.	1905	8	—	—	—	Not commenced working till 1906.
5	Doonbeg,	1905	8	—	—	—	
6	Doon and Boreland, Co.	1905	105	35	100	500	
7	Fingra View,	1905	5	—	—	—	Commenced working in December, 1905.
8	Inagh,	1905	50	5	—	—	
9	Kilmalea, Inch and Connolly, Co.	1905	8	—	—	—	
10	Kilkeash, Co.	1905	25	4	—	—	Commenced working in December, 1905.
11	Oranmore's Mills, Co.	1905	48	5	—	150	
12	Ross, Co.	1905	100	15	45	425	

2. STATEMENT showing the Statistics of the Agricultural Credit Societies in County Clare, 1905.

Taken from the Report of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society for the year ended 30th June, 1906.

No.	NAME OF SOCIETY.	Date of Establishment.	Members.	Loan Capital.	Deposits.	Total Capital.	Total Amount of Loans.	Number of Loans Granted.	Expenses.	Net Profit.	Reserve Fund.
1	Georgeshill,	1905	25	50 0 0	—	50 0 0	50 0 0	1	0 1 0	—	0 1 0
2	Glacree,	1905	20	100 0 0	32 0 0	132 0 0	132 0 0	40	0 7 10½	2 0 4½	15 17 1½
3	Oran,	1905	30	100 0 0	—	100 0 0	80 18 6	21	0 2 5	1 7 3	4 4 8
4	Oranmore,	1905	50	100 0 0	32 0 0	132 0 0	100 0 0	10	—	1 15 3	0 3 0
5	Doonbeg,	1905	24	75 0 0	—	75 0 0	96 0 0	11	0 7 8	0 12 7	1 7 8
6	Doonbeg,	1905	32	50 0 0	—	50 0 0	42 0 0	5	0 0 0	0 4 4	2 5 0
7	Doonbeg,	1905	35	50 0 0	—	50 0 0	—	—	0 15 0	0 10 8	1 10 8
8	Inagh,	1905	50	100 0 0	37 0 0	137 0 0	145 10 8	27	0 4 8	2 12 9	7 10 8
9	Kilkeash,	1905	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	Kilkeash,	1905	37	100 0 0	21 0 0	121 0 0	121 0 0	18	0 12 0	2 0 10	7 10 8
11	Kilkeash,	1905	50	—	—	—	—	—	0 1 11	—	0 10 8
12	Kilkeash,	1905	50	100 0 0	32 0 0	132 0 0	166 0 0	30	0 3 0	0 8 0½	0 8 7
13	Lisacree,	1905	40	100 0 0	32 0 0	132 0 0	155 15 0	20	1 10 10	0 5 0	2 4 0½
14	Marston,	1905	25	100 0 0	—	100 0 0	100 0 0	15	0 5 0	1 10 0	0 3 0

T.—RETURN OF UNTENANTED LAND IN THE COUNTY OF CLARE

Taken from Parliamentary Paper No. 250 of 1906.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Owner in Valuation Lists.	Area (Statute).	Ratable Valuation.		Observations.
				Land.	Buildings.	
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Abey	Moolish East	Walter Joyce	287 0 12	56 12 0	5 1 0	
		Walter Joyce	29 5 30	5 0 0	—	
		Walter Joyce	18 0 35	2 16 0	—	
		Walter Joyce	5 2 2	2 0 0	—	
		Walter Joyce	9 1 35	1 2 0	—	
		Walter Joyce	12 1 2	2 12 0	—	
Cass	Club	Walter Joyce	0 0 10	0 1 0	—	
		Reps. Lord Inchiquin ..	182 0 28	22 10 0	0 10 0	
		Mrs. Mahon and others ..	1,053 1 15	118 10 0	1 30 0	
		John Hynds	154 2 15	30 0 0	0 5 0	
		Reps. Lord Inchiquin ..	150 1 23	18 0 0	—	
		John Hynds	36 2 15	12 10 0	1 0 0	
Cathcart	Ballymore	Thomas A. O'Donnell ..	282 0 28	86 10 0	1 10 0	
		Henry V. McNamara ..	416 1 30	80 0 0	0 15 0	
		Braden Hood	236 1 17	64 0 0	1 0 0	
		Henry V. McNamara ..	201 0 13	44 5 0	0 15 0	
		Mrs. Frost	220 2 28	44 0 0	0 30 0	
		Henry V. McNamara ..	184 0 0	24 10 0	0 20 0	
Harragh West	Ballymore	Michael O'Brien	87 0 30	22 0 0	—	
		Thomas A. O'Donnell ..	169 2 0	38 0 0	0 5 0	
		James Glynn	125 2 37	25 10 0	—	
		Thomas A. O'Donnell ..	184 2 22	41 0 0	0 15 0	
		Thomas A. O'Donnell ..	312 0 9	32 0 0	0 10 0	
		Thomas A. O'Donnell ..	18 1 20	6 0 0	0 10 0	
Harragh West	Ballymore	Henry V. McNamara ..	41 0 18	6 0 0	—	
		Henry V. McNamara ..	100 3 20	21 10 0	0 5 0	
		Gertrude McLeet	29 5 38	13 5 0	—	
		Gertrude McLeet	36 2 24	16 12 0	—	
		Timothy O'Donnell ..	153 1 30	44 0 0	0 5 0	
		Braden Hood	153 1 5	70 0 0	—	
Harragh West	Ballymore	Alfred Hynds	472 2 8	37 10 0	0 10 0	
		Henry V. McNamara ..	5 1 18	1 7 0	0 5 0	
		Reps. Raght Hood	442 1 9	15 0 0	—	
		Reps. Raght Hood	19 3 0	11 15 0	—	
		Reps. Raght Hood	5 2 50	3 15 0	3 10 0	
		Reps. Raght Hood	692 3 34	72 0 0	0 10 0	
Harragh West	Ballymore	Henry V. McNamara ..	241 0 33	25 10 0	—	
		Francis O'Donnell (late Foster)	677 1 9	86 10 0	2 0 0	
		Francis O'Donnell (late Foster)	61 0 1	10 0 0	—	
		Henry V. McNamara ..	106 1 35	18 0 0	—	
		Stephens Moore	1 1 0	1 0 0	—	
		Thomas William Stephens	7 0 0	5 15 0	—	
Harragh West	Ballymore	Mrs. McMahon Creagh and Mrs.	76 0 20	6 20 0	—	
		Braden Creagh	31 0 0	1 0 0	—	
		Mrs. McMahon Creagh and Mrs.	376 0 36	128 0 0	0 15 0	
		Braden Creagh	295 3 34	45 0 0	—	
		Reps. Jeremiah Kelly ..	97 3 0	12 10 0	—	
		Mrs. McMahon Creagh and Mrs.	8 2 10	9 10 0	—	
Harragh West	Ballymore	Braden Creagh	15 0 25	1 10 0	—	
		Mrs. McMahon Creagh and Mrs.	492 2 25	195 4 0	1 6 0	
		Thomas Rine Hunt	92 1 14	27 15 0	0 15 0	
		Rev. Robert Walsh	6 0 14	1 0 0	—	
		Mrs. McMahon Creagh and Mrs.	6 1 30	1 0 0	—	
		Braden Creagh	364 2 10	61 7 0	0 13 0	
Harragh West	Ballymore	Frank Martyn	25 1 35	17 2 0	20 0 0	
		Frank Martyn	17 3 25	28 10 0	—	
		Frank Martyn	279 3 11	66 12 0	0 8 0	
		Frank Martyn	178 0 25	44 0 0	—	
		Frank Martyn	2 3 26	1 5 0	—	
		Frank Martyn	6 3 4	2 10 0	—	
Harragh West	Ballymore	Frank Martyn	41 3 28	12 0 0	0 15 0	
		Frank Martyn	408 2 20	169 2 0	0 5 0	
		Frank Martyn	6 0 12	0 0 0	—	
		Frank Martyn	282 2 0	23 0 0	0 5 0	
		Mrs. McMahon Creagh and Mrs.	25 0 3	2 0 0	—	
		Braden Creagh	31 2 0	20 10 0	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF CORROFIN.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Owner as Valuation Lists.	Area (acres).	Rental's Valuation.		Observations.
				Land.	Buildings.	
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Ballylighter ..	Hagherreashen or Ballylighter	Wood Minors (in Chancery) ..	100 1 32	37 10 0	—	
"	"	Wood Minors (in Chancery) ..	96 2 4	0 5 0	8 5 0	
"	"	Wood Minors (in Chancery) ..	131 1 15	33 0 0	0 5 0	
"	"	Wood Minors (in Chancery) ..	144 2 39	24 15 0	—	
"	"	Wood Minors (in Chancery) ..	30 0 0	7 15 0	—	
Boston ..	Thomasmagh	Horace S. O'Brien ..	101 2 33	14 15 0	0 15 0	
	Ahilyany North	Margaret Louisa Croagh ..	269 2 27	33 5 0	0 5 0	
	"	Margaret Louisa Croagh ..	89 2 0	15 10 0	15 10 0	
	"	Margaret Louisa Croagh ..	5 2 33	2 0 0	0 10 0	
	"	Margaret Louisa Croagh ..	7 0 10	3 10 0	0 10 0	
	"	Margaret Louisa Croagh ..	40 1 11	15 0 0	1 10 0	
	"	Margaret Louisa Croagh ..	124 3 0	63 5 0	—	
	"	Margaret Louisa Croagh ..	35 3 0	14 10 0	—	
	Ballyglashan	Hyacinth D'Arcy ..	262 1 7	45 0 0	1 0 0	
	Ballyglashan	Hyacinth D'Arcy ..	871 3 38	138 10 0	1 10 0	
"	"	Hyacinth D'Arcy ..	71 1 11	0 10 0	1 0 0	
"	Kylecum	Hyacinth D'Arcy ..	22 1 0	0 10 0	—	
"	Ballyglashan	Hyacinth D'Arcy ..	22 2 25	0 15 0	—	
"	"	Hyacinth D'Arcy ..	27 3 15	12 0 0	—	
Corrofin ..	Annerly	J. W. McNamara, M.D. ..	75 0 34	43 0 0	0 15 0	
	Ballyglashan	Lord Inchiquin ..	59 2 5	13 10 0	—	
	Cood	John McNamara, M.D. ..	68 2 30	24 15 0	—	
	Inchmonee	Lord Inchiquin ..	60 1 34	60 0 0	—	
	Kells	Lord Inchiquin ..	9 3 35	5 10 0	1 0 0	
	Kilfene (Bath)	Charles W. Studdert ..	80 0 30	36 5 0	1 5 0	
	"	Charles W. Studdert ..	124 1 32	59 15 0	17 10 0	
	Lundham	Charles W. Studdert ..	41 3 11	19 2 0	—	
	"	Patrick Finnegan ..	7 0 24	3 10 0	0 10 0	
	Lindell	Thomas Foley Ross, M.D. ..	230 3 1	34 0 0	1 0 0	
Gleace ..	Kilroe	Lord Inchiquin ..	125 2 26	0 0 0	2 0 0	
	Kilroe	James D. Wilson ..	53 0 27	16 15 0	20 0 0	Manion house.
	Gleace	William D. Russell ..	379 2 18	85 15 0	1 15 0	
	Lashmogh	William D. Russell ..	35 2 5	15 10 0	0 15 0	
	Poladair	William D. Russell ..	171 0 22	45 0 0	10 30 0	
Kilfinnash ..	Ballymonee	Lord Inchiquin ..	136 1 19	100 10 0	—	
	Ballymonee	Arthur Green, M.D. ..	124 2 27	55 10 0	1 10 0	
	Chooone	Lord Inchiquin ..	230 2 8	129 5 0	0 5 0	
	"	Lord Inchiquin ..	103 1 13	120 0 0	0 5 0	
	"	Lord Inchiquin ..	89 1 8	03 0 0	—	
	Deerpark	Lord Inchiquin ..	84 3 4	40 10 0	—	
	Kilfinnash	Reps. James Nagle ..	117 1 15	109 10 0	—	
	Leamaneh	Lord Inchiquin ..	78 3 33	74 0 0	1 0 0	
	North	Lord Inchiquin ..	186 0 30	167 0 0	—	
	Leamaneh	Lord Inchiquin ..	2 1 10	1 15 0	—	
Kilfinnash ..	Leam	Michael Nagle ..	311 0 31	78 0 0	0 15 0	
	"	Reps. John Nagle ..	96 1 15	47 10 0	0 15 0	
	Poladair	Michael Nagle ..	76 2 10	22 0 0	—	
	Shahymore	Lord Inchiquin ..	310 0 20	83 0 0	1 0 0	
	Colmashmonee	Lord Inchiquin ..	32 2 3	30 10 0	—	
Kilfinnash ..	West	Lord Inchiquin ..	78 1 54	94 15 0	—	
	Gleace	Thomas Nugent ..	464 2 37	33 10 0	—	
	Lava	Francis Foster, M.D. ..	225 2 11	19 8 0	0 10 0	
	Garrifone	Francis Foster, M.D. ..	1 2 36	1 0 0	0 10 0	
	"	Francis Foster, M.D. ..	2 0 30	1 0 0	—	
Kilfinnash ..	Longhammawellan	Thomas Crowe ..	180 3 17	65 0 0	—	
	Bazaghon	Thomas Crowe ..	153 2 7	67 8 0	1 15 0	
	Poladair	Thomas Crowe ..	68 8 20	1 10 0	—	
	Chahilagh	David O'Brien ..	5 2 20	2 5 0	—	
	Chahilagh	Thomas W. Patterson ..	103 3 23	75 0 0	59 0 0	Manion house.
Kilfinnash ..	"	William W. Barton and others ..	35 3 34	24 5 0	12 0 0	
	"	William W. Patterson ..	30 2 28	13 0 0	—	
	Quessel	Thomas W. Patterson ..	55 3 38	22 0 0	—	
	Noson	Thomas W. Patterson ..	147 0 15	89 15 0	3 5 0	
	"	Thomas W. Patterson ..	1 2 25	1 0 0	0 15 0	
Kilfinnash ..	Chahilagh	Thomas Crowe ..	268 3 13	83 15 0	1 15 0	
	Chahilagh	Thomas Crowe ..	104 1 30	81 0 0	1 10 0	
	"	Thomas Crowe ..	2 2 36	5 0 0	—	
	Bromore	Thomas Crowe ..	808 1 35	394 15 0	33 15 0	Manion house.
	Gleace	Charles W. Studdert ..	11 3 32	5 0 0	—	
Kilfinnash ..	Lashmogh	Thomas Crowe ..	94 3 8	30 0 0	—	
	Noson	Reps. Jeremiah Kelly ..	84 2 18	24 5 0	—	
Kilfinnash ..	Portlone	Reps. Jeremiah Kelly ..	179 2 7	147 0 0	27 10 0	Manion house.

RURAL DISTRICT OF ENNIS.

Rural Division.	Townland.	Owner in Valuation List.	Area (statute).	Rateable Valuation.			Observations.
				Land.	Buildings.		
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Barrowby	Chloe Crossmore	Lord Inchiquin	1 3 30	1 10 0	—		
	Laura East	Stanhope O'G. Roche	130 3 34	132 15 4	2 10 8		
	Laura West	Stanhope O'G. Roche	68 3 34	70 0 0	0 5 0		
	Bushybeg	Lord Inchiquin	37 8 4	1 0 0	—		
	Islandavanna	Fergus Beckwith's Syndicate	629 2 20	490 0 0	—		Not yet valued
	Upper	Michael Casals	11 0 28	20 0 0	—		
	Berlingham	Alma J. Stackpoole	113 3 4	77 8 0	3 6 8		
	Kilnaree	Alma J. Stackpoole	131 3 4	54 0 0	80 6 0		Mansion house.
	Newhall	C. B. A. McDermott	35 0 0	37 10 8	—		
	"	C. B. A. McDermott	11 6 16	3 10 0	—		
Cough	"	C. B. A. McDermott	151 3 33	140 0 0	20 0 0		Mansion house.
	"	C. B. A. McDermott	28 2 35	20 0 0	6 16 0		
	"	C. B. A. McDermott	45 1 10	40 0 0	—		
	"	C. B. A. McDermott	44 2 1	43 10 0	—		
	"	C. B. A. McDermott	61 2 15	30 10 0	—		
	Geary's Cross	Patrik Frost	174 3 17	170 0 0	0 0 0		
	Ranacrossa	Kathleen Bell	1 0 22	0 10 0	—		
	Jahed	John Frost	77 0 8	45 0 0	0 10 0		
	Hanraha South	John Frost	71 1 23	45 0 0	—		
	Ballymoony	Lady Fitzgerald	2 2 35	1 10 8	—		
Craugh	Mass Hary O'Gandy and Mrs. Lennan	61 0 38	58 10 0	0 10 0	—		
	Chertidge	Major Stephen Hickman	171 3 8	162 15 8	2 10 0		
	Ballygannon	Reps. Theobald Butler	1 1 20	0 5 0	—		
	"	Reps. Theobald Butler	0 3 4	0 8 0	0 7 0		
	Cappanacrossa	Reps. Theobald Butler	533 1 14	63 10 0	—		
	"	Reps. Theobald Butler	143 3 6	80 0 0	3 0 0		
	Chertidge	Reps. James Butler	15 3 32	4 0 0	—		
	Chertidge	Reps. Theobald Butler	19 3 5	2 8 0	6 18 0		
	Chertidge	Reps. Theobald Butler	90 0 28	26 0 0	—		
	Drumacrossa	J. V. V. Fitzgerald	1 1 10	0 10 0	—		
Craugh	Drumacrossa	William Butler	280 3 8	28 15 0	5 8 0		
	Ballyne	Reps. Theobald Butler	438 0 17	238 2 0	30 8 0		Mansion house.
	Cullinagh	Reps. Theobald Butler	29 4 12	0 0 0	0 16 0		
	Ballygannon	Fred Crowe	22 0 33	17 0 0	—		
	Berreen	Rev. William H. R. Smith	4 1 12	2 10 0	—		
	Castlebar	Rev. William H. R. Smith	144 1 8	141 0 0	24 0 0		Mansion house.
	"	Rev. William H. R. Smith	8 3 30	6 10 0	—		
	Chertidge	Francis V. Westley	23 1 23	13 12 0	—		
	Chertidge	James J. Moran, M.D.	45 3 29	20 0 0	—		
	Drumacrossa	William J. McNamara	71 2 12	32 8 0	0 30 0		
Craugh	Ballygannon	Rep. Thomas Studdert	58 1 17	23 17 8	1 5 8		
	North	Rep. Thomas Studdert	170 2 12	38 13 0	24 0 0		Mansion house.
	Ballygannon	James E. V. Fitzgerald	12 2 24	5 5 0	—		
	Keeragh	Richard F. Kelly	150 1 23	230 0 0	35 0 0		Mansion house.
	Keeragh	Major-General H. M. Syge	6 0 22	4 15 0	—		
	Keeragh	Major-General H. M. Syge	0 1 31	6 0 0	—		
	Keeragh	Major-General H. M. Syge	10 1 0	4 0 0	—		
	Keeragh	Major-General H. M. Syge	1 0 30	0 15 0	—		
	Keeragh	Major-General H. M. Syge	26 3 39	22 8 0	16 6 0		
	Keeragh	Major-General H. M. Syge	1 9 0	1 14 0	—		
Craugh	Keeragh	Lord Inchiquin	44 3 3	32 5 0	0 10 0		
	Ballygannon	Reps. Michael O'Loghan	2 1 20	0 4 0	—		
	North	(in Chertidge)	28 0 18	15 0 0	4 10 0		
	Ballygannon	Marion Keane	97 2 1	26 0 0	25 0 0		Mansion house.
	Keeragh	Marion Keane	40 3 18	20 0 0	—		
	Keeragh	Marion Keane	14 1 27	8 8 0	—		
	Keeragh	Richard J. Stackpoole	17 3 7	10 1 0	1 9 0		
	Keeragh	Walter F. Crowe	49 1 10	20 0 0	0 18 0		
	Keeragh	Marion Keane	7 1 10	6 10 0	2 15 0		
	Keeragh	Walter F. Crowe	134 2 38	110 8 0	15 10 0		Mansion house.
Craugh	Keeragh	Walter F. Crowe	23 0 28	6 0 0	9 10 0		
	Keeragh	General R. H. Gore	12 0 13	12 12 0	—		
	Keeragh	Nicholas McNamara	20 3 23	30 18 0	0 10 0		
	Keeragh	Nicholas McNamara	1 1 30	2 0 0	0 10 0		
	Keeragh	Harriet S. O'Brien	8 3 13	4 0 0	—		
	Keeragh	Michael Healey	51 3 28	48 0 0	2 10 0		
	Keeragh	Margaret Gwyngarn	135 1 17	90 22 0	0 18 0		
	Keeragh	Margaret Gwyngarn	39 0 30	24 0 0	1 9 0		
	Keeragh	Marion Keane	3 3 30	2 10 0	—		
	Keeragh	William J. McNamara	2 3 30	1 0 0	6 10 0		
Craugh	Keeragh	Richard J. Stackpoole	3 3 30	2 0 0	—		
	Keeragh	Richard J. Stackpoole	135 8 15	80 18 0	5 0 0		
	Keeragh	Richard J. Stackpoole	24 3 33	17 0 0	—		
	Keeragh	Richard J. Stackpoole	94 0 3	68 0 0	22 0 0		
	Keeragh	Harriet S. O'Brien	20 2 6	5 8 0	—		
	Keeragh	Harriet S. O'Brien	20 2 6	5 8 0	—		
	Keeragh	Harriet S. O'Brien	20 2 6	5 8 0	—		
	Keeragh	Harriet S. O'Brien	20 2 6	5 8 0	—		
	Keeragh	Harriet S. O'Brien	20 2 6	5 8 0	—		
	Keeragh	Harriet S. O'Brien	20 2 6	5 8 0	—		

RURAL DISTRICT OF ENNIS—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Occupier in Valuation List.	Area (statute).	Rateable Valuation.		Observations.
				Land.	Buildings.	
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Kilnashy ..	Leamoy Beg ..	John and Mary Barry ..	30 1 3	17 15 0	—	
" ..	Clonowry ..	Rev. George Reddick ..	02 3 30	—	—	
Kilnashy ..	Ballypuck ..	William J. McNamee ..	08 2 35	30 0 0	16 0 0	
" ..	Ballypuck ..	Thomas Crowe ..	103 3 11	115 10 0	1 5 0	
" ..	Colebrook ..	Robert H. Crowe ..	230 2 35	168 5 0	2 10 0	
" ..	Knocknacree ..	Patrick Duffin ..	35 2 33	22 15 0	1 0 0	
Kilnashy ..	Knocknacree ..	Francis V. Westley ..	26 2 33	—	—	
Newmarket ..	Ballypuck ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	45 2 3	42 0 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	206 2 25	208 0 0	12 10 0	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	01 2 35	123 10 0	1 10 0	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	12 3 25	28 0 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	11 2 35	10 0 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	03 2 15	75 0 0	2 0 0	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	72 0 5	86 5 0	6 15 0	
" ..	Ballynagappa ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	38 0 27	27 0 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	1 2 33	1 15 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	341 2 36	227 5 0	6 10 0	
" ..	Downland ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	778 0 32	206 10 0	156 15 0	Maxim house.
" ..	Mixed on River- Fergus, Crow Island ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	0 2 24	0 10 0	—	
" ..	Kilnashy ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	33 2 37	33 5 0	4 5 0	
" ..	Lisson North ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	30 1 25	25 0 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	25 3 0	30 0 0	—	
" ..	Knocknahan ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	84 1 21	73 5 0	0 15 0	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	6 3 30	8 10 0	—	
" ..	Aylmestry ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	01 2 2	49 0 0	0 10 0	
" ..	Chilmeadow ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	27 3 35	12 10 0	—	
" ..	Carnewashilly ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	12 2 30	0 15 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	25 1 18	6 10 0	1 10 0	
" ..	Lough ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	2 0 10	1 5 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	16 3 37	0 5 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	22 1 0	2 10 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	4 0 16	1 5 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	1 3 30	0 10 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	1 1 0	0 10 0	—	
" ..	Moynan South ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	226 2 28	120 10 0	4 7 0	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	18 2 17	7 10 0	0 5 0	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	83 2 17	13 15 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	2 2 30	1 0 0	4 0 0	
" ..	Newmarket ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	34 2 35	1 0 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	7 1 12	32 0 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	5 3 15	4 10 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Inchiquin ..	7 0 25	9 17 0	—	
Scarra Lodge ..	Woodpark ..	Henry V. D'Esterre ..	140 1 28	83 5 0	5 0 0	
" ..	Claghina ..	Reps. Francis Morris ..	60 2 11	61 5 0	—	
" ..	Paragh (Wilson) ..	Scarra Park ..	2 1 28	1 5 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Scarra Park ..	146 3 30	72 8 0	7 2 0	
" ..	Newpark ..	Henry W. D'Esterre ..	18 0 30	8 0 0	4 0 0	
" ..	Boonagappa ..	Henry W. D'Esterre ..	19 1 32	23 0 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Henry W. D'Esterre ..	22 3 10	17 0 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Henry W. D'Esterre ..	55 0 18	75 0 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Henry W. D'Esterre ..	189 0 8	129 10 0	6 15 0	
" ..	" ..	Henry W. D'Esterre ..	3 3 15	3 0 0	1 10 0	
" ..	" ..	Henry W. D'Esterre ..	442 2 34	632 0 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Henry W. D'Esterre ..	33 2 0	47 0 0	—	
" ..	Cappagh Lodge ..	James Frost ..	32 1 0	37 0 0	11 0 0	
" ..	" ..	James Frost ..	271 2 4	192 2 0	0 8 0	
" ..	" ..	James Frost ..	30 1 24	17 0 0	2 10 0	
Spasachill ..	Ballypuck ..	James F. V. Fitzgerald ..	33 2 28	32 0 0	—	
" ..	" ..	James F. V. Fitzgerald ..	0 0 31	4 5 0	—	
" ..	" ..	James F. V. Fitzgerald ..	0 0 34	5 10 0	—	
" ..	Ballypuck South ..	Marion Deakin ..	34 1 6	30 4 0	4 1 0	
" ..	Conceath ..	Mr. Bladen Wood ..	13 1 2	4 10 0	0 15 0	
" ..	Cumaghaugh ..	Mr. Bladen Wood ..	4 0 28	9 5 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Mr. Bladen Wood ..	3 2 35	2 10 0	—	
" ..	Moynan (Parish of Glenties) ..	James F. V. Fitzgerald ..	0 2 38	3 10 0	—	
" ..	Moynan (Parish of Doora) ..	James F. V. Fitzgerald ..	220 0 34	155 13 0	11 4 0	
" ..	" ..	James F. V. Fitzgerald ..	22 0 0	17 8 0	—	
" ..	" ..	James F. V. Fitzgerald ..	77 1 1	28 0 0	—	
Kilroydan North ..	" ..	Robert W. Greene ..	250 0 14	119 15 0	25 10 0	
Teaghsilly ..	Ballypuck ..	Robert Vane O'Brien ..	64 2 19	34 0 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Robert Vane O'Brien ..	5 1 18	3 10 0	42 0 0	Maxim house.
" ..	" ..	Robert Vane O'Brien ..	190 0 10	307 0 0	—	
" ..	Ballypuck North ..	Frederick M. Callaghan ..	7 2 25	9 10 0	—	
" ..	Ballynagappa Crossagh ..	Robert H. Crowe ..	34 2 5	28 0 0	—	
Teaghsilly ..	" ..	Lady Stoney, Adam J. St. G. Loftus, and Richard George R. Loftus ..	81 0 15	50 0 0	2 0 0	

RURAL DISTRICT OF ENNIS—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Owner in Valuation Lists.	Area (statute).	Rateable Valuation.		Observations.
				Land.	Buildings.	
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Ennistown	Ormeau	Lady Stoner, Adam St. G. Loftus, and Richard George H. Loftus	22 0 22	48 0 0	2 0 0	
"	Bathalon South	A. B. Stoner	440 3 17	100 0 0	22 0 0	Manor house.
"	"	Lady Stoner, Adam St. G. Loftus, and Richard G. H. Loftus	0 3 0	0 10 0	—	
"	Urban Beg	Lady E. C. Fitzgerald	23 0 16	28 0 0	—	
"	Kilmeadow	Lady Fitzgerald	5 1 57	5 5 0	—	
"	"	Lady Fitzgerald	4 0 14	5 5 0	0 15 0	
"	"	Lady Fitzgerald	2 3 0	2 5 0	—	
"	Knockagort	Lady Fitzgerald	4 0 35	2 10 0	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF ENNISTIMON.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Owner in Valuation Lists.	Area (statute).	Rateable Valuation.		Observations.
				Land.	Buildings.	
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Ennistimon	Ballydaff Hill	William H. W. Fitzgerald	22 1 29	1 0 0	—	
"	Drumcree	William H. W. Fitzgerald	22 0 15	0 10 0	—	
"	"	William H. W. Fitzgerald	24 0 25	0 10 0	—	
"	Ballyne South	Rape, Henry P. Reilly	4 3 10	0 5 0	—	
Ballyne	Ballyne	Henry P. McNamara	40 3 8	2 0 0	—	
"	Darwin	Rape, William H. Magrath	5 2 30	1 10 0	—	
"	Lisheen North	Rape, William H. Magrath	0 0 0	—	0 5 0	
"	"	Rape, William H. Magrath	12 2 27	2 15 0	0 15 0	
"	Shewingsburgh	Rape, William H. Magrath	9 0 0	1 10 0	—	
Ballyne	Drumcree	Lord Leconfield	26 2 26	48 10 0	1 10 0	
"	Finis Beg	Edward R. W. O. O'Connell	84 3 39	51 0 0	2 0 0	
"	"	Edward R. W. O. O'Connell	174 0 4	281 8 0	3 15 0	
"	Troughavale	Lord Leconfield	8 0 0	1 10 0	—	
"	Troughavale	Lord Leconfield	0 2 14	0 0 0	—	
"	Troughavale	Lord Leconfield	151 0 19	71 10 0	25 0 0	Manor house.
"	"	Lord Leconfield	48 0 0	—	—	
"	"	Lord Leconfield	79 3 28	35 0 0	0 15 0	
"	"	Lord Leconfield	40 3 28	3 15 0	—	
"	"	Lord Leconfield	37 1 51	20 0 0	27 5 0	Manor house.
"	"	Lord Leconfield	33 3 0	1 0 0	—	
"	"	Lord Leconfield	19 0 10	8 10 0	2 0 0	
"	"	Lord Leconfield	40 3 20	25 10 0	—	
"	"	Lord Leconfield	81 3 30	5 0 0	—	
"	"	Lord Leconfield	4 2 0	0 10 0	—	
"	"	Lord Leconfield	243 3 31	48 0 0	—	
Ennistimon	Ballyne	John Turlough O'Brien	152 2 13	80 5 0	22 0 0	Manor house.
"	West	Henry V. McNamara	96 1 28	89 0 0	42 10 0	Manor house.
"	Cartlequar	Henry V. McNamara	4 0 28	1 5 0	—	
"	Clonacree	Henry V. McNamara	1 3 15	1 10 0	1 4 0	
"	Deerpark	Henry V. McNamara	1 2 0	1 5 0	—	
"	Deerpark Upper	Henry V. McNamara	1 3 0	1 10 0	0 5 0	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	8 3 5	4 15 0	—	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	1 0 2	1 3 0	—	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	0 1 0	0 5 0	—	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	2 1 20	2 2 0	10 8 0	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	54 5 32	36 10 0	—	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	27 5 30	12 0 0	—	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	8 2 0	7 5 0	—	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	8 0 0	8 0 0	—	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	28 2 30	21 3 0	1 8 0	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	84 2 0	50 0 0	30 0 0	Manor house
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	410 3 21	44 9 0	3 10 0	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	18 0 30	0 7 0	—	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	825 3 14	33 10 0	—	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	15 2 0	2 10 0	—	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	33 2 0	8 10 0	—	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	341 2 4	43 10 0	—	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	110 2 0	12 0 0	—	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	393 3 12	118 10 0	25 0 0	Manor house.
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	194 0 20	123 0 0	0 5 0	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	281 3 18	96 0 0	1 5 0	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	30 1 30	14 0 0	0 5 0	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	19 1 30	11 0 0	10 10 0	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	18 0 0	16 0 0	—	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	4 2 8	5 5 0	1 0 0	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	164 2 25	54 5 0	—	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	15 1 15	27 10 0	—	
"	"	Henry V. McNamara	11 3 24	27 0 0	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF ENNISTIMON—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Owner in Valuation List.	Area (acres).	Ratable Valuation.		Remarks.
				Land.	Buildings.	
Kilbegg	Robberby	Henry V. McNamara	199 2 0	2 13 0	—	
	Cahernacherry	Henry V. McNamara	175 0 34	145 5 0	0 5 0	
	"	Henry V. McNamara	35 2 15	27 15 0	—	
	Cassons	Henry V. McNamara	238 3 38	4 15 0	1 0 0	
	Cassons West	Henry V. McNamara	61 3 2	0 20 0	0 5 0	
	Dooks	Henry V. McNamara	142 3 6	154 10 0	0 5 0	
	"	Henry V. McNamara	31 0 16	47 0 0	27 10 0	Manion house
	Doonashilly	Henry V. McNamara	36 1 30	40 0 0	—	
	"	Henry V. McNamara	34 1 25	38 2 0	—	
	Glashaghy	Henry V. McNamara	173 3 21	140 0 0	0 10 0	
Kilbegg	Glasheen	Edward A. Goss	121 1 10	108 5 0	4 10 0	
	Kilbegg	Henry V. McNamara	95 0 33	130 0 0	—	
	Lough North	Lorenzo Scherer	38 3 30	5 10 0	—	
	Tungessna	Henry V. McNamara	2 0 0	3 5 0	—	
	"	Henry V. McNamara	10 0 8	7 10 0	2 0 0	
	"	Henry V. McNamara	1 3 20	0 5 0	—	
	Tungessna	Henry V. McNamara	2 2 15	0 5 0	—	
	Kilbegg	Alfred O'Brien	28 0 30	1 0 0	—	
	South	John Terence O'Brien	20 2 34	3 13 0	1 10 0	
	Lerrigs	Edward A. Goss	611 3 0	82 0 0	—	
Kilbegg	Cahernacherry	Edward A. Goss	167 3 20	160 0 0	2 15 0	
	Yongren	William James McNamara	50 1 22	0 20 0	—	
	Spang	Hector S. Vandelaar	20 3 12	1 10 0	—	
	Healy North	Thomas L. Marney	9 0 0	4 10 0	0 10 0	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	17 1 27	7 10 0	0 10 0	
	Healy South	Thomas L. Marney	1 3 10	0 10 0	—	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	5 3 15	1 10 0	—	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	0 2 30	0 5 0	—	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	17 2 28	5 10 0	—	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	3 1 0	2 0 0	5 0 0	
Kilbegg	"	Thomas L. Marney	10 3 8	5 10 0	3 0 0	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	0 0 30	0 5 0	—	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	24 3 5	22 2 0	20 5 0	Manion house.
	"	Thomas L. Marney	3 1 7	2 15 0	—	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	0 1 20	0 5 0	1 0 0	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	10 1 30	0 14 0	—	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	14 2 30	8 5 0	—	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	5 0 36	2 0 0	—	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	0 2 35	5 0 0	3 0 0	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	0 0 20	0 2 0	5 10 0	
Kilbegg	Leagard North	Thomas L. Marney	0 1 20	0 0 0	—	
	Leagard South	Thomas L. Marney	10 2 1	8 0 0	—	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	1 0 5	1 0 0	1 0 0	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	12 3 38	0 5 0	—	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	2 1 30	1 11 0	0 5 0	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	2 3 10	1 0 0	0 14 0	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	88 2 34	43 15 0	20 0 0	
	"	Thomas L. Marney	2 3 12	10 15 0	22 0 0	
	Knockmuckan	Robert W. Ellis	142 0 28	80 5 0	6 0 0	
	"	Capt. Robert W. Ellis	23 1 7	11 0 0	—	
Moy	"	Robert W. Ellis	8 1 20	4 0 0	—	
	"	Robert W. Ellis	32 2 30	14 0 0	—	
	Moy Beg	Lady C. E. Fitzgerald	0 2 8	2 0 0	—	
	Curragh	Lady C. E. Fitzgerald	19 2 23	12 16 0	20 15 0	Manion house.
	"	Lady C. E. Fitzgerald	0 2 2	0 0 0	—	
	Curragh	Lady C. E. Fitzgerald	38 3 31	0 10 0	—	
	Crug	Lady C. E. Fitzgerald	12 2 20	9 5 0	—	
	Thyngurra	Lady C. E. Fitzgerald	4 4 39	0 15 0	—	
	West	"	"	"	"	
	Southtown	Samuel Lewis	75 3 0	5 0 0	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF KILLADYSERT.

Kilbegg	Ardragh	William H. Bell	2 2 20	1 10 0	—	
	Ballynagard	Frederic R. Horn and Dorothy	0 3 10	0 20 0	—	
	"	A. De Montmancy	—	—	—	
	Curragh	William Hawkins Bell	37 3 30	20 7 0	—	
	Confield	William Hawkins Bell	90 3 23	111 0 0	27 0 0	Manion house.
	Fortlucas	William Hawkins Bell	175 1 10	200 10 0	40 0 0	Manion house.
	Inchkeel	William Hawkins Bell	358 2 25	505 0 0	4 15 0	
	"	William Hawkins Bell	39 2 37	41 15 0	1 5 0	
	Knockmuckan	William Hawkins Bell	52 2 32	50 10 0	—	
	Knockmuckan	Capt. Henry H. Arthur	95 1 0	5 10 0	—	
Kilbegg	Ballynagard	John O'Connell	142 1 12	75 10 0	41 5 0	Manion house.
	Curragh	Hector S. Vandelaar	5 3 0	3 5 0	—	
	"	Hector S. Vandelaar	0 3 25	2 5 0	—	
	"	Hector S. Vandelaar	84 0 12	2 0 0	—	
	Derrykeel	John O'Connell	40 0 23	12 0 0	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF KILLADYSERT—continued.

Electoral District.	Townland.	Owner in Valuation List.	Area (statute).	Estimated Valuation.		Observations.
				Land.	Buildings.	
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Killadysert ..	Derrylin ..	John O'Connell ..	165 3 33	37 5 0	4 39 0	
" ..	Lackenagh ..	John O'Connell ..	177 2 8	160 0 0	6 0 0	
" ..	" ..	John O'Connell ..	20 3 7	9 39 0	1 5 0	
" ..	Cahoon ..	H. S. Vandeleur ..	424 0 23	225 7 3	37 18 0	
" ..	Cootengowan ..	Rev. G. H. Ross Lewis ..	45 0 27	25 0 0	9 15 0	
Kilboe ..	Balla ..	Lord Antrim ..	39 1 27	3 5 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Antrim ..	185 3 23	60 0 0	2 15 0	
" ..	Mountlamban East ..	Rev. S. Vandeleur ..	134 3 23	40 0 0	1 10 0	
" ..	" ..	Marion Keane ..	227 1 37	145 4 0	5 10 0	
Kilsherry ..	Derrylin ..	John V. V. Fitzgerald ..	187 1 1	14 16 0	2 0 0	
Lake ..	Chahoon ..	Frederic R. Ross, M.P. ..	65 2 16	5 0 0	—	
" ..	Oughlin ..	Thomas G. R. Mahon ..	85 3 23	15 10 0	3 10 0	
" ..	" ..	Thomas G. R. Mahon ..	222 1 11	126 0 0	30 0 0	Mansion house
" ..	Oughlin ..	Michael S. Gibson ..	80 3 34	95 0 0	3 15 0	
" ..	" ..	Michael S. Gibson ..	19 0 33	15 15 0	2 10 0	
" ..	" ..	Paragon Reclamation Syndicate ..	11 1 19	12 5 0	4 5 0	
" ..	" ..	Robert E. O'Donnell ..	47 0 21	47 15 0	—	
" ..	Ikeshaw ..	Paragon Reclamation Syndicate ..	27 1 17	91 15 0	0 10 0	
" ..	" ..	Paragon Reclamation Syndicate ..	1 2 30	1 5 0	15 16 0	
" ..	" ..	Paragon Reclamation Syndicate ..	596 2 32	138 13 0	—	
Beck ..	Chahoon ..	H. S. Vandeleur ..	450 2 10	184 4 0	65 5 0	Mansion house.
" ..	Lackenagh More ..	Capt. James Craig Scott ..	43 2 29	0 0 0	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF KILRUSH.

Electoral District.	Townland.	Owner in Valuation List.	Area (statute).	Estimated Valuation.		Observations.
				Land.	Buildings.	
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Donagh ..	Donagh ..	Rev. H. McMahon Cough ..	90 0 33	36 10 0	1 10 0	
" ..	Donagh ..	Wanright F. Keogh ..	8 0 3	0 30 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Thomas Cross ..	83 5 22	3 0 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Thomas Mahon ..	8 2 30	0 10 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Col. Thomas Kelly-Kenny ..	1 0 38	0 8 0	—	
Donagh ..	Donagh ..	Francis V. Westley ..	122 2 30	1 35 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Francis V. Westley ..	262 1 3	9 30 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Francis V. Westley ..	120 3 33	4 35 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Francis V. Westley ..	100 5 30	6 4 0	0 5 0	
" ..	Donagh ..	Francis V. Westley ..	263 1 10	5 5 0	—	
Donagh ..	Donagh ..	Garrett Doherty ..	60 3 29	0 10 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Thomas Shedd ..	39 1 34	12 2 0	0 10 0	
Donagh ..	Donagh ..	Rev. S. Vandeleur ..	30 1 19	14 15 0	0 15 0	
" ..	Donagh ..	Rev. S. Vandeleur ..	144 3 0	32 0 0	1 10 0	
" ..	Donagh ..	Rev. S. Vandeleur ..	19 1 37	12 0 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Rev. S. Vandeleur ..	135 1 11	88 5 0	4 5 0	
" ..	Donagh ..	Rev. S. Vandeleur ..	531 0 17	3 3 0	—	
Donagh ..	Donagh ..	John F. Shedd ..	277 5 21	20 4 0	3 15 0	
" ..	Donagh ..	Rev. S. Vandeleur ..	883 0 15	24 10 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Rev. S. Vandeleur ..	12 3 18	0 10 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Marion Keane ..	294 0 14	3 39 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Capt. George O'G. Westropp ..	294 2 15	2 30 0	—	
Donagh ..	Donagh ..	Marion Keane ..	312 0 15	5 30 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	C. R. A. McDonnell ..	1 2 12	1 0 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Rev. S. Vandeleur ..	31 0 18	15 8 0	0 9 0	
" ..	Donagh ..	Rev. S. Vandeleur ..	87 3 21	1 8 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Rev. S. Vandeleur ..	45 8 30	2 15 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Francis V. Westley ..	27 0 0	14 0 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Marion Keane ..	18 2 30	2 10 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Francis V. Westley ..	0 3 0	0 6 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Marion Keane ..	2 1 30	1 10 0	0 10 0	
" ..	Donagh ..	Francis V. Westley ..	174 3 29	83 6 0	25 0 0	Mansion house.
" ..	Donagh ..	Francis V. Westley ..	63 1 7	7 15 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Marion Keane ..	8 2 0	0 0 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Marion Keane ..	4 1 0	1 0 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Marion Keane ..	4 1 10	1 0 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Francis V. Westley ..	23 2 33	16 0 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Capt. James Craig Scott ..	160 1 12	6 5 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Robert W. C. Reeves ..	22 0 0	12 10 0	1 6 0	
" ..	Donagh ..	Robert W. C. Reeves ..	4 3 20	2 10 0	1 13 0	
" ..	Donagh ..	Robert W. C. Reeves ..	55 1 66	89 0 0	2 1 0	
" ..	Donagh ..	Robert W. C. Reeves ..	79 1 15	20 15 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Robert W. C. Reeves ..	27 3 8	26 15 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Robert W. C. Reeves ..	8 2 0	3 0 0	—	
" ..	Donagh ..	Robert W. C. Reeves ..	12 0 7	—	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF KILRUSH—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Owner in Valuation Lists.	Area (acres).	Rateable Valuation.				Observations.	
				Land.		Buildings.			
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Kilmer	Donnagarra	Robert W. C. Reeves	83	9	37	1	8	0	
"	"	Robert W. C. Reeves	6	3	25	0	15	0	2 5 0
"	Donnell	Mary Foley	15	1	13	0	19	0	0 10 0
Kilrush	Churrovanan	Robert W. C. Reeves	124	9	38	17	18	0	23 2 0
"	Kilrush	Reps. Hen. John S. Bell	27	1	33	1	0	0	
"	"	B. Wolfe Pinnagen and E. Wolfe Pinnagen	68	2	7	1	7	0	
Kilruary	Cherish	Lord Levensfield	5	2	2	4	0	0	
"	Quilly East	Wassington F. Green	10	5	25	12	0	0	Manure house.
"	Scold	Michael S. Evans	150	0	29	84	10	0	2 15 0
Kilrush (Barrel)	Quarrelston South	Hector S. Vandelaar	28	1	8	0	2	0	
"	"	Hector S. Vandelaar	0	3	30	0	11	0	0 14 0
"	Cooney/Dunon	Hector S. Vandelaar	41	1	34	0	20	0	
"	Dyart	Hector S. Vandelaar	25	2	20	0	3	0	
"	Ballyrath West	Hector S. Vandelaar	3	2	1	0	19	0	
"	Quarrelston North	Hector S. Vandelaar	20	1	30	0	5	0	
"	"	Hector S. Vandelaar	1	0	5	0	5	0	
"	Quarrelston South	Hector S. Vandelaar	59	2	20	43	10	0	1 10 0
"	Passage	Hector S. Vandelaar	243	1	19	140	0	0	
"	"	Hector S. Vandelaar	13	3	34	5	10	0	3 0 0
"	Lindane East	Hector S. Vandelaar	53	0	19	49	15	0	1 0 0
"	"	Hector S. Vandelaar	17	0	32	27	15	0	
"	Moorcree Lower	Hector S. Vandelaar	84	1	16	0	15	0	
"	Moorcree North	Hector S. Vandelaar	159	2	6	0	10	0	
"	Moorcree South	Hector S. Vandelaar	400	1	27	1	0	0	
"	"	Hector S. Vandelaar	41	3	20	9	12	0	0 15 0
"	Mayne	Hector S. Vandelaar	64	0	35	34	10	0	0 16 0
Knock	Churrovanan	Francis William Gore Hickman	7	1	2	4	15	0	
"	Churrovanan	Francis William Gore Hickman	5	1	7	5	5	0	
"	Churrovanan	Francis William Gore Hickman	1	1	20	0	10	0	1 0 0
"	Derrybough	Francis William Gore Hickman	24	2	34	0	5	0	
"	Kilrush	Francis William Gore Hickman	8	3	15	3	0	0	
"	"	Francis William Gore Hickman	68	1	31	44	0	0	
"	"	Francis William Gore Hickman	126	0	13	111	15	0	44 15 0
"	"	Francis William Gore Hickman	31	3	19	34	0	0	
"	Knock	Francis William Gore Hickman	50	2	33	27	0	0	
"	Dunrobin	Catherine Healy	25	0	2	0	14	0	
"	Dunrobin	Francis William Gore Hickman	48	2	14	1	3	0	
Knocksholey	Doolough	Col. Thomas Kelly Kenay	259	0	35	11	20	0	0 10 0
Knocknagore	Currybough	Richard J. Stackpole	82	1	25	6	0	0	
"	Currybough	Richard J. Stackpole	22	0	38	1	0	0	
"	Currybough	Richard J. Stackpole	799	5	15	6	8	0	
"	Tullishin	Richard J. Stackpole	147	1	17	4	0	0	
"	"	Richard J. Stackpole	24	2	11	2	20	0	
"	"	Richard J. Stackpole	199	5	27	4	20	0	
"	"	Richard J. Stackpole	19	1	30	8	0	0	
"	"	Richard J. Stackpole	170	0	25	2	0	0	
Moynan	Boagive	Francis V. Waddy	92	3	11	6	0	0	
"	Parrot Upper	Charles R. A. McDermott	51	2	13	16	0	0	
"	Lichenorey	Charles R. A. McDermott	28	2	0	17	0	0	
"	"	Charles R. A. McDermott	22	3	30	14	10	0	
"	"	Charles R. A. McDermott	15	1	25	7	25	0	34 10 0
"	"	Charles R. A. McDermott	14	1	0	7	0	0	
"	"	Charles R. A. McDermott	12	2	35	0	0	0	
"	"	Charles R. A. McDermott	4	0	10	2	0	0	
"	"	Charles R. A. McDermott	39	2	10	14	10	0	
"	"	Charles R. A. McDermott	22	2	20	13	0	0	
"	"	Charles R. A. McDermott	11	3	27	6	0	0	
"	"	Charles R. A. McDermott	11	2	25	5	10	0	
Quorra	Tullane	Reps. Randalborough	72	0	16				
"	Quorra	Dr. John F. O'Connell	7	3	2	3	0	0	
"	"	Dr. John F. O'Connell	1	1	30	1	0	0	2 15 0
"	"	Dr. John F. O'Connell	3	0	35	0	10	0	
"	"	Dr. John F. O'Connell	10	1	35	0	15	0	
"	"	Dr. John F. O'Connell	8	0	5	1	0	0	
"	"	Dr. John F. O'Connell	36	2	30	24	10	0	14 10 0
"	Shane to River	Dr. John F. O'Connell	7	0	11	0	10	0	
Bahon	Shaneon	William C. V. Burton	10	3	31	2	5	0	
"	Reby East	Mayer S. C. Hickman	35	1	9	12	0	0	0 5 0
"	"	Mayer S. C. Hickman	101	2	12	21	10	0	0 10 0
"	"	Mayer S. C. Hickman	223	1	25	27	5	0	2 0 0
"	Rinevacka/Deery	William C. V. Burton	90	3	5	16	0	0	
"	"	William C. V. Burton	89	2	30	45	15	0	
"	"	William C. V. Burton	72	1	0	52	10	0	25 0 0
"	"	William C. V. Burton	10	1	5	6	0	0	
Tullymore	Derron	Hector S. Vandelaar	1	0	24	0	5	0	

RURAL DISTRICT OF KILRUSH—continued.

APPENDIX

Ecclesiastical Division.	Townland.	Occupier in Valuation Lists.	Area (acres).	Rateable Valuation.		Observations.
				Land.	Buildings.	
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Tullymore.	Derross ..	Hector S. Vandeleur ..	27 0 15	3 2 0	0 15 0	
	Keshkarra ..	Hector S. Vandeleur ..	30 3 16	1 0 0	—	
	" ..	Hector S. Vandeleur ..	50 2 19	28 10 0	4 5 0	
	Tullymore Lower ..	Hector S. Vandeleur ..	188 2 24	32 0 0	0 15 0	
	Tullymore Upper ..	Hector S. Vandeleur ..	17 2 23	2 0 0	0 10 0	

RURAL DISTRICT OF LIMERICK No. 2.

Ballyvaughan ..	Ballyvaughan East ..	James Hickman Shire ..	218 0 38	58 5 0	0 10 0	
	Ballyvaughan North ..	James Hickman Shire ..	27 3 4	28 5 0	2 0 0	
	" ..	James Hickman Shire ..	31 1 31	28 0 0	—	
	Ballyvaughan West ..	James Hickman Shire ..	15 2 20	5 5 0	—	
	Cappasheen East ..	James O'Grady Delmage ..	262 1 12	29 20 0	1 15 0	
" ..	Cappasheen West ..	James O'Grady Delmage ..	215 0 58	22 0 0	2 15 0	
	Glennagross ..	James O'Grady Delmage ..	222 2 32	58 0 0	5 10 0	
	Ballyvaughan ..	James Hickman Shire ..	30 2 28	22 10 0	2 0 0	
	Blackwater ..	Col. Thomas S. Madden ..	145 2 8	62 0 0	0 10 0	
	" ..	Col. Thomas S. Madden ..	32 2 5	0 0 0	0 15 0	House in house.
" ..	" ..	Col. Thomas S. Madden ..	1 2 29	0 0 0	2 0 0	
	Gortlagher ..	Col. Thomas S. Madden ..	21 0 5	14 10 0	0 15 0	
	" ..	Col. Thomas S. Madden ..	69 2 3	22 10 0	2 0 0	
	Parlane ..	Col. Thomas S. Madden ..	37 0 37	16 10 0	2 0 0	
	Romacilla East ..	Col. Thomas S. Madden ..	1 2 20	0 12 0	—	
" ..	Romacilla West ..	Mark Maxwell ..	29 2 20	15 0 0	25 0 0	House in house.
	Islands in the River Shannon ..	Robert D. O'Brien ..	3 2 8	1 15 0	—	
	Ballyvaughan Beg ..	Robert G. Parker ..	2 2 29	4 20 0	—	
	" ..	John W. Lynch ..	23 1 27	10 0 0	—	
	Ballyvaughan North ..	John W. Lynch ..	6 1 17	2 0 0	0 10 0	
" ..	" ..	Robert G. Parker ..	100 0 22	46 0 0	—	
	" ..	John W. Lynch ..	0 3 10	0 5 0	—	
	Ballyvaughan South ..	Lady Clarissa and the Misses Butler ..	45 0 22	25 10 0	—	
	Belvoir ..	John W. Lynch ..	1 2 0	0 5 0	—	
	Belvoir ..	John W. Lynch ..	22 1 10	2 5 0	0 5 0	
" ..	Belvoir ..	John W. Lynch ..	122 3 35	25 5 0	—	
	Dunmore ..	John W. Lynch ..	17 0 0	10 0 0	7 0 0	
	" ..	John W. Lynch ..	302 0 28	135 0 0	—	
	Claghalla ..	Thomas McMahon O'Connell ..	141 3 23	7 20 0	—	
	Dunmore ..	John W. Lynch ..	0 2 30	0 5 0	—	
" ..	Doonagh ..	John W. Lynch ..	7 0 16	0 18 0	—	
	Ballyvaughan ..	John W. Lynch ..	18 0 0	8 15 0	—	
	Castles ..	Lady Clarissa and the Misses Butler ..	7 1 3	4 15 0	0 5 0	
	" ..	Lady Clarissa and the Misses Butler ..	229 0 35	88 15 0	45 10 0	House in house.
	" ..	Lady Clarissa and the Misses Butler ..	122 5 10	17 10 0	0 5 0	
" ..	" ..	Lady Clarissa and the Misses Butler ..	7 1 24	1 15 0	1 5 0	
	Claghalla ..	Elizabeth Singleton ..	15 0 13	0 15 0	—	
	Claghalla ..	Rev. Henry Rose Bayly ..	2 1 0	0 15 0	—	
	Doonagh or Ballyvaughan (Merrill) ..	" ..	" ..	" ..	" ..	
	Kylgish ..	Capt. Francis Sargison ..	2 2 10	0 30 0	—	
" ..	Quin ..	Earl of Lonsdale ..	30 1 7	0 5 0	—	
	Brinkill West ..	Septimus W. Wood ..	75 1 31	4 0 0	—	
	Islands in the River Shannon —North Island ..	Lord Lonsdale ..	5 5 5	4 15 0	—	
	Mayhill ..	Lord Lonsdale ..	18 2 13	22 10 0	2 0 0	
	" ..	Lord Lonsdale ..	15 0 14	15 10 0	1 15 0	
" ..	Parlane ..	Thomas Stafford O'Brien ..	75 2 28	90 5 0	24 0 0	
	" ..	Francis O'Brien ..	10 2 11	4 15 0	—	
	" ..	Francis O'Brien ..	3 1 20	1 0 0	—	
	Ballyvaughan ..	Sgt. Lord George Quinn ..	20 1 7	16 7 0	12 0 0	
	Doonagh ..	Thomas Stafford O'Brien ..	168 2 22	24 0 0	1 15 0	
" ..	Doonagh ..	Mrs. Mary Watson ..	264 1 13	117 5 0	25 15 0	
	Clonkey ..	Robert L. Brown ..	" ..	" ..	" ..	

RURAL DISTRICT OF LIMERICK No. 2—continued.

Elected Division.	Townland.	Owner in Valuation Lists.	Area (statute).	Rateable Valuation.		Observations.
				Land.	Buildings.	
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Feltrimore ..	Feltry Beg ..	Robert L. Browne ..	65 0 27	15 15 0	1 0 0	
	Boylebrook ..	Arthur (Minn) ..	4 0 0	—	—	
Kilshy ..	Woodcockhill ..	Maryann Conyngham ..	260 1 11	17 15 0	—	
		Margaret Conyngham ..	65 2 12	4 10 0	—	
	Ardsleigh ..	John V. Phelps ..	1 1 0	0 10 0	—	
	Don ..	John V. Phelps ..	15 3 0	3 0 0	0 5 0	
		John V. Phelps ..	47 3 24	30 0 0	—	
	Goringagh ..	John V. Phelps ..	0 3 20	0 10 0	—	
		John V. Phelps ..	33 2 5	21 5 0	—	
	Goringagh ..	John V. Phelps ..	34 5 20	8 0 0	—	
	Hurdston ..	William Bentley ..	71 2 14	51 0 0	48 0 0	Manion house.
		William Bentley ..	32 2 10	30 0 0	—	
	Kilshewy (O'Brien) ..	Anne Hall ..	7 3 0	4 0 0	—	
	Staty (Cooper) ..	Capt. Austin Cooper ..	11 3 25	1 15 0	—	
	Staty (Mear) ..	Rep. George Searson ..	11 0 24	1 15 0	—	
	Woodfield ..	Anne Hall ..	22 2 3	0 30 0	—	
Kilshewy ..	Coote ..	Col. J. Mear Westropp ..	1 3 0	0 15 0	—	
	Deane ..	Col. J. Mear Westropp ..	45 0 17	65 5 0	2 5 0	
		Col. J. Mear Westropp ..	2 2 0	1 10 0	—	
	Deane ..	Col. J. Mear Westropp ..	0 3 0	15 0 0	75 0 0	Manion house.
		Col. J. Mear Westropp ..	160 2 20	170 0 0	—	
		Col. J. Mear Westropp ..	84 2 0	80 0 0	—	
	Lisheff ..	Col. J. Mear Westropp ..	21 0 5	1 0 0	—	
		John C. Brady ..	38 0 26	21 10 0	—	
	Moskloke ..	Col. J. Mear Westropp ..	4 0 27	2 0 0	—	
	Sturton ..	Col. J. Mear Westropp ..	6 1 27	0 15 0	—	
Mounties ..	Bonskloke South ..	Capt. H. W. D'Ester ..	154 3 36	5 10 0	—	
	Kilshewy ..	Lady Chichester and the Misses Belle ..	127 0 7	2 10 0	—	
	Boonemore ..	Capt. H. W. D'Ester ..	174 2 34	2 30 0	—	
	Ballintra North ..	Professor Kelly ..	50 2 10	30 0 0	50 0 0	Manion house.
O'Brien's Bridge ..	Ardsleigh ..	John C. Fitzgerald ..	58 1 24	40 15 0	50 0 0	
	Ardsleigh ..	Col. W. F. Fitzgerald ..	488 1 35	100 10 0	41 0 0	Manion house.
	Ross ..	Amrose Hall ..	3 0 34	2 0 0	—	
		Amrose Hall ..	70 0 11	60 5 0	23 0 0	
		Amrose Hall ..	30 0 31	15 0 0	—	
		Amrose Hall ..	22 3 39	15 0 0	—	
		Amrose Hall ..	41 2 14	24 0 0	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF SCARRIFF.

Ayle ..	Ayle Lower ..	Rep. Joseph Browne ..	111 1 11	3 0 0	—	
	Corrismagh ..	Finian Kelly ..	8 1 30	0 10 0	—	
Bohergan ..	Clonsilla ..	John O'Callaghan ..	74 3 1	60 0 0	1 10 0	
		John O'Callaghan ..	41 2 30	22 0 0	—	
		John O'Callaghan ..	0 3 0	0 10 0	—	
		John O'Callaghan ..	11 2 25	8 0 0	0 10 0	
		John O'Callaghan ..	15 2 19	9 15 0	0 10 0	
		John O'Callaghan ..	20 3 9	10 15 0	—	
		John O'Callaghan ..	30 2 25	15 5 0	0 10 0	
	Conboy ..	Rep. Patrick M. Collins, M.P. ..	14 3 21	9 5 0	—	
	Bromed ..	John O'Callaghan ..	34 3 10	14 5 0	—	
		John O'Callaghan ..	114 2 3	60 0 0	3 10 0	
		John O'Callaghan ..	10 1 27	12 25 0	1 0 0	
		John O'Callaghan ..	34 3 25	10 10 0	0 10 0	
		John O'Callaghan ..	20 1 14	2 10 0	0 9 0	
	Inchabog ..	John O'Callaghan ..	1 1 6	0 5 0	—	
		John O'Callaghan ..	305 3 25	15 15 0	0 10 0	
		John O'Callaghan ..	41 1 25	2 5 0	—	
	Kilroe ..	General E. A. Gore ..	58 2 0	0 15 0	—	
		General E. A. Gore ..	120 0 4	100 0 0	0 10 0	
	Lisbarr ..	John O'Callaghan ..	38 2 17	22 10 0	0 10 0	
		John O'Callaghan ..	5 2 24	3 0 0	—	
		John O'Callaghan ..	50 1 34	0 10 0	—	
	Ballymoghlan ..	John O'Callaghan ..	22 1 24	—	—	
		John O'Callaghan ..	9 2 0	8 10 0	0 10 0	
		John O'Callaghan ..	47 2 0	12 20 0	—	
		John O'Callaghan ..	113 1 22	2 15 0	—	
Cabocherry ..	Cabocherry ..	Capt. George D. Searson ..	7 1 30	5 15 0	—	
		Robert Morland ..	130 0 31	114 0 0	0 5 0	
Osherrin ..	Osherrin ..	Arthur Knox Hickey ..	200 3 9	30 0 0	1 10 0	
Cappagh ..	Cappagh ..	Donat Searson ..	42 0 20	13 15 0	1 10 0	
Carroona ..	Ballymoghlan ..	Marcus Widdham Patterson ..	618 1 20	137 2 0	3 0 0	

RURAL DISTRICT OF SCARRIFF—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Occupier in Valuation List.	Area (acres).	Rateable Valuation.		Observations.
				Land.	Buildings.	
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Carrigrohane	Carrigrohane	Marion Wyndham Pitterson	0 2 15	8 4 0	—	
	Lackabramore	Marion Wyndham Pitterson	465 2 30	84 15 0	3 10 0	
Clewinstown	Ballycotton	George D. Sampson	277 3 30	5 0 0	—	
		George D. Sampson	47 2 30	15 0 0	5 0 0	
		George D. Sampson	34 1 30	24 15 0	3 15 0	
	Gortaderry	Robert Moreland	454 0 14	7 5 0	—	
Coolreagh	Coolreagh	Lord Lonsdale	392 2 10	2 0 0	—	
	Coolreagh Beg	George O'Donoghue Westropp	401 1 12	185 0 0	85 0 0	
	Coolreagh More	George O'Donoghue Westropp	95 8 12	68 10 0	0 10 0	
	Bonmahon	Edward A. Gore	2 3 15	0 5 0	—	
Coles	Coles	David Molloy	283 0 25	25 0 0	1 10 0	
	Knockbalm	William B. Molloy	25 2 1	8 0 0	—	
Derryglough	Cornelison	Capt. Henry H. Archer	55 2 14	—	—	
Dromahaire	Cappagh	Mary White	25 1 0	10 10 0	—	
	Cappaghbrannigan	Francis C. Sampson	68 2 30	24 0 0	—	
	Chorah	Mary A. Sampson, M.D.	51 0 31	10 0 0	1 0 0	
	Dromahaire	Mary White	11 3 34	5 2 0	—	
	Dromahaire East	Major-General W. Spencer	7 1 3	3 10 0	14 0 0	
	Dromahaire West	Cooper	106 5 30	56 7 0	1 13 0	
	Furze	Major-General William Spencer	57 3 12	0 10 0	—	
		Cooper	69 2 30	30 15 0	1 13 0	
	Garryvagher	Mary White	290 1 12	37 5 0	2 5 0	
	Gartincorney	Rpts. Patrick Malone	1 0 12	0 4 0	0 5 0	
		Rpts. Patrick Malone	35 3 4	14 5 0	—	
	Gartincorney	Francis C. Sampson, M.D.	1 2 12	1 0 0	—	
	Hanmore	Francis C. Sampson, M.D.	61 1 18	1 5 0	—	
	Whitgate	Francis C. Sampson, M.D.	43 1 8	8 15 0	—	
Faile	Core	Capt. E. R. Pocklington	0 0 35	0 5 0	—	
	Cornelison More	Rpts. James Butler	25 0 34	10 0 0	—	
	Faile	Rpts. James Butler	31 2 5	16 30 0	—	
		Rpts. James Butler	32 3 35	—	—	
	Gartincorney	Capt. E. R. Pocklington	37 0 5	—	—	
	Lisnaw	Capt. E. R. Pocklington	31 1 12	1 6 0	—	
	Lower		102 2 30	38 5 0	1 2 0	
Inchacra	Rebalt North	Flores J. Hibbert	451 2 30	32 15 0	0 14 0	
	Rebalt South	Flores J. Hibbert	44 2 4	5 14 0	—	
	Cappagh	Flores J. Hibbert	323 2 13	122 10 0	1 15 0	
		Flores J. Hibbert	14 0 2	7 0 0	1 0 0	
	Cloosky	Flores J. Hibbert	63 2 33	60 0 0	—	
	Cornelison	Flores J. Hibbert	0 3 10	0 10 0	—	
	Carrigrohane	Flores J. Hibbert	240 2 12	5 15 0	—	
	Knockbalm	Flores J. Hibbert	43 2 10	42 10 0	—	
	Holy Island	Flores J. Hibbert	143 1 15	57 0 0	0 10 0	
	Knockbalm	Flores J. Hibbert	2 0 11	0 5 0	—	
	North	Flores J. Hibbert	2 1 29	0 1 0	—	
	South	Flores J. Hibbert	86 8 27	10 15 0	0 5 0	
	Sallins West	Flores J. Hibbert	51 5 5	1 0 0	—	
	Sallins East	Flores J. Hibbert	238 0 27	70 10 0	66 5 0	Mansion house.
	Woodpark	Flores J. Hibbert	5 1 19	0 5 0	—	
	Young's Island	Flores J. Hibbert	96 3 27	37 17 0	0 5 0	
Kilke	Farm	Rev. Patrick Sullivan	7 1 2	10 5 0	38 0 0	Mansion house
	Knockbalm	Henry M. Lefroy	0 2 5	0 15 0	1 15 0	
		Henry M. Lefroy	115 1 15	124 0 0	0 30 0	
	Mays	Rpts. Thomas J. Riggs-Miller	0 2 15	0 30 0	—	
		Rpts. Thomas J. Riggs-Miller	11 2 30	2 5 0	—	
Monaghan	Cornelison	Flores J. Hibbert	213 2 15	85 5 0	2 30 0	
	South	Flores J. Hibbert	947 1 24	39 17 0	1 0 0	
	Cornelison	James Wakely	470 0 31	9 5 0	—	
	Dromahaire	James Wakely	30 2 15	34 5 0	—	
	Dromahaire	James Wakely	82 0 38	37 17 0	37 5 0	Mansion house.
	Bally Island	James Wakely	15 3 34	5 6 0	—	
	Cribby Island	James Wakely	4 0 32	9 10 0	—	
Scarriff	Ballymalina	Robert W. Moreland	5 9 5	5 6 0	—	
		Robert W. Moreland	122 1 12	44 0 0	—	
	Ballymalina	Robert W. Moreland	257 2 30	151 15 0	0 15 0	
		Robert W. Moreland	0 2 15	0 10 0	—	
	Cappagh	George D. Sampson	36 1 31	7 0 0	0 10 0	
	Farm Beg	W. B. W. Fitzgerald	5 3 31	—	—	
	Farm More	P. F. Lew	14 2 35	—	—	
	Myrae	R. J. Stackpoole	20 2 22	—	—	
	Robins	R. J. Stackpoole	451 1 34	194 9 0	37 0 0	Mansion house
		Robert W. Moreland	5 1 12	2 0 0	1 6 0	
	Myrae	R. J. Stackpoole	11 2 31	—	—	
	Tongues	Robert W. Moreland	4 2 30	6 0 0	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF SCARRIFF—continued.

Electoral Division.	Townland.	Occupier in Valuation Lists.	Area. (Acreage).	Ratable Valuation.		Observations.
				Land.	Buildings.	
			A. R. P.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Scarriff ..	Tengrauney ..	Robert W. Moreland ..	1 2 10	2 0 0	0 10 0	
" ..	" ..	Robert W. Moreland ..	2 2 15	2 10 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Robert W. Moreland ..	2 3 10	1 0 0	0 10 0	
" ..	" ..	Robert W. Moreland ..	49 5 29	1 11 0	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF TULLA.

Ballywood ..	Ballywood ..	Lord Leconfield ..	543 2 32	1 17 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Lord Leconfield ..	1 3 30	1 0 0	—	
" ..	Derrynose West ..	Lord Leconfield ..	393 2 1	0 5 0	—	
Ballyashlish ..	Azengrood ..	Francis V. Westley ..	39 1 28	0 15 0	—	
" ..	Ballyashlish ..	Edward A. Gore ..	421 0 39	305 5 0	45 0 0	Mansion house.
" ..	Clough ..	Edward A. Gore ..	12 0 0	9 0 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Edward A. Gore ..	155 0 20	81 0 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Edward A. Gore ..	544 0 21	374 15 0	40 5 0	Mansion house.
" ..	Shroogrove ..	Lady Clara Emma Fitzgerald ..	37 2 20	0 15 0	—	
Cabre ..	Ballyroan ..	John F. V. Fitzgerald ..	41 2 23	0 5 0	—	
Clooney ..	Ballyroan ..	Thomas G. S. Mahon ..	48 1 9	26 15 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Thomas G. S. Mahon ..	12 2 30	1 0 0	—	
" ..	Clooney ..	Joseph Hall ..	288 2 2	257 7 0	42 8 0	Mansion house.
" ..	Corbally ..	Thomas G. S. Mahon ..	487 0 3	284 0 0	34 0 0	Mansion house.
" ..	Knocknacross ..	Reps. James Butler ..	13 2 23	12 0 0	—	
Dangra ..	Curnacra ..	Mrs. McMahon Craigh and Mrs. Butler Craigh ..	59 1 12	2 0 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Cornet James Condliffe ..	8 2 0	4 0 0	15 5 0	Mansion house.
" ..	Clulian ..	Robert O'Brien Studdert ..	73 5 30	5 5 0	16 0 0	Mansion house.
" ..	" ..	Robert O'Brien Studdert ..	265 1 23	185 15 0	2 5 0	
" ..	Clulian ..	Thomas McMahon ..	22 1 10	4 30 0	—	
" ..	Dangan ..	Mrs. McMahon Craigh and Mrs. Butler Craigh ..	153 3 20	191 0 0	30 10 0	Mansion house.
" ..	" ..	Mrs. McMahon Craigh and Mrs. Butler Craigh ..	153 1 13	87 10 0	6 10 0	
" ..	" ..	Mrs. McMahon Craigh and Mrs. Butler Craigh ..	66 1 50	33 0 0	—	
" ..	Derrysack North ..	Robert O'Brien Studdert ..	5 0 0	2 10 0	—	
Glendree ..	Upper ..	Reps. James Butler ..	54 3 30	12 10 0	1 0 0	
Kilbreen ..	Castle ..	Edw. of Limerick ..	32 3 27	0 10 0	—	
" ..	Derrysack ..	Reps. James Butler ..	228 1 52	193 0 0	4 0 0	
" ..	Overton ..	Robert A. Studdert ..	5 1 30	0 10 0	—	
" ..	Kilbreen ..	Robert A. Studdert ..	205 3 0	199 0 0	40 0 0	Mansion house.
" ..	Derrysack ..	Robert A. Studdert ..	28 0 23	62 0 0	1 0 0	
" ..	Knocknacross ..	Robert A. Studdert ..	134 1 10	0 10 0	—	
" ..	Terrace ..	Robert A. Studdert ..	95 2 19	1 15 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Robert A. Studdert ..	40 0 0	5 10 0	—	
" ..	" ..	Robert A. Studdert ..	13 0 24	7 4 0	—	
S. James ..	Knocknagaha ..	Major Roger Hall ..	35 1 31	2 15 0	1 15 0	
Kilman ..	Ballymacneil ..	John O'Callaghan ..	15 2 39	0 15 0	0 10 0	
" ..	Clonsilla ..	John V. Flanagan ..	2 0 0	0 15 0	—	
" ..	Clonsilla ..	Edward A. Gore ..	181 5 0	0 10 0	—	
" ..	Derrysack ..	John V. Flanagan ..	40 2 2	12 10 0	—	
" ..	Derrysack ..	John V. Flanagan ..	89 5 4	7 2 0	6 0 0	
" ..	Derrysack ..	John V. Flanagan ..	103 3 2	23 0 0	2 5 0	
" ..	Kilman ..	Charles Wilmet Smith ..	233 0 24	124 10 0	3 0 0	
" ..	" ..	Charles Wilmet Smith ..	5 3 34	2 5 0	—	
" ..	Terrace ..	Lady Clara E. Fitzgerald ..	110 3 10	1 15 0	—	
" ..	Terrace ..	Charles Wilmet Smith ..	107 0 21	20 15 0	—	
" ..	Valehill ..	John V. Flanagan ..	5 0 12	2 15 0	—	
" ..	" ..	John V. Flanagan ..	51 0 20	7 0 0	1 10 0	
Kilman ..	Annagh ..	William Bersted Maloy (s. Mear) ..	95 2 52	0 10 0	—	
" ..	Ballygahra ..	William Bersted Maloy (s. Mear) ..	94 2 54	2 10 0	—	
" ..	Glendree ..	William Bersted Maloy (s. Mear) ..	142 0 25	5 15 0	—	
" ..	Clonsilla ..	William Bersted Maloy (s. Mear) ..	128 1 1	3 5 0	—	
" ..	Crag ..	Patrick J. Maloy ..	225 0 25	54 15 0	13 10 0	
" ..	Derrysack ..	William Bersted Maloy (s. Mear) ..	1 1 7	0 10 0	—	
" ..	Byval ..	William Bersted Maloy (s. Mear) ..	14 2 11	4 10 0	—	
" ..	Kilman ..	William Bersted Maloy (s. Mear) ..	290 0 25	245 5 0	50 0 0	Mansion house.
" ..	" ..	William Bersted Maloy (s. Mear) ..	2 1 18	1 15 0	—	
" ..	" ..	William Bersted Maloy (s. Mear) ..	71 2 0	57 0 0	—	

RURAL DISTRICT OF TULLA—continued.

APPENDIX II.

Electoral District.	Townland.	Owner in Valuation List.	Area (Acre).	Estimated Valuation.		Observations.
				Land.	Buildings.	
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Kyl	Cappalsheen ..	Sep. Lord Fitzgerald ..	34 2 10	0 5 0	—	
	Goodness ..	John Callahan ..	223 2 50	1 0 0	—	
	Mare ..	John Callahan ..	31 2 31	0 15 0	—	
" "	Derryman East ..	John Frost ..	156 3 10	1 5 0	—	
	Knockaloe ..	Michael Shalloo ..	66 1 0	21 10 0	1 10 0	
	Ballytettery ..	Thomas R. Browne ..	472 0 2	308 15 0	51 0 0	Manion house.
" "	or Newcorn ..	Thomas R. Browne ..	1 1 30	0 15 0	—	
	Tyredagh ..	Thomas R. Browne ..	155 0 5	70 0 0	0 15 0	
	Ballymadoc ..	Alize Glover ..	—	—	—	
" "	East ..	Reps. James Butler ..	309 3 26	124 8 0	1 0 0	
	Ballymadoc ..	Lord Donohoe ..	163 1 12	103 0 0	—	
	Knockage ..	Lord Donohoe ..	102 3 38	103 10 0	35 10 0	Manion house
" "	" ..	Lord Donohoe ..	72 2 14	42 10 0	—	
	" ..	James Butler Innes ..	23 1 16	17 15 0	31 0 0	Manion house
	Quilville North ..	Thomas R. Browne ..	46 1 10	2 10 0	0 5 0	
Rathdowny ..	Derryman ..	Reps. James O'Brien ..	6 3 33	1 5 0	0 10 0	
	O'Brien's Castle ..	Reps. James O'Brien ..	4 3 30	1 10 0	—	
	Parishogue ..	Reps. James O'Brien ..	37 1 13	0 4 0	—	
" "	Rathdowny ..	Reps. James O'Brien ..	22 2 3	1 10 0	—	
	Bylane ..	Reps. James Butler ..	22 2 22	10 0 0	—	
	Ballymadoc ..	Reps. Callahan ..	30 3 10	4 0 0	—	
" "	Shirley ..	Gillman O'Grady ..	—	—	—	
	" ..	(a Moor) ..	71 3 6	25 0 0	0 15 0	
	Knockmuck ..	Reps. James Butler ..	133 3 0	27 0 0	1 0 0	
" "	Knockmuck ..	Reps. James Butler ..	41 1 10	23 0 0	0 10 0	
	Sunnagh ..	Reps. James Butler ..	6 0 17	1 10 0	—	
	" ..	Reps. James Butler ..	127 2 5	144 5 0	10 5 0	
Tull	Fortane Beg ..	John O'Callaghan ..	32 1 5	53 10 0	—	
	" ..	John O'Callaghan ..	23 1 0	43 10 0	—	
	" ..	John O'Callaghan ..	17 1 2	10 5 0	0 10 0	
" "	Melroe ..	John O'Callaghan ..	3 2 22	1 0 0	—	
	" ..	John O'Callaghan ..	—	—	—	
	" ..	John O'Callaghan ..	—	—	—	

APPENDIX III.

DOCUMENT put in by The O'CONNOR DOX in connection with the evidence given by him before the Commission.

NOTES OF EVIDENCE.

I am His Majesty's Lieutenant for County Roscommon. Although I have practised for some years at the English Bar I have had considerable experience in matters connected with the West of Ireland. I have for practically the whole of my life spent a large amount of my time in the West. Every year I have spent at least some months there.

When I came of age my father made over to me a small property, and on his death last June I succeeded to his estate, and for many years previously I knew of all his dealings with his tenants, and have seen all the changes in land matters in my district, which includes part of a scheduled congested area.

I propose to deal with the matters before this Commission under a number of headings, which are, as far as possible, strangled in the order of the terms of reference.

AREA OF CONGESTION.

It appears to me that the definition in the 1891 Act does not coincide with the poverty-stricken districts which are intended to be dealt with.

In one sense the statutory area is much too large, and yet it excludes districts which are as poor, or even poorer.

The statutory definition is based solely on the poor law valuation and does not take into account means of earning a livelihood other than agriculture. For instance, the districts of Rathladden, Carragee, Belderg, Inver, Pullathomas, and Doohoma are all scheduled, regardless of the fact that agriculture is not the chief source of livelihood.

On the other hand, there may be very congested and poor townlands which are not scheduled at all if they happen to be in the same electoral division with other rich and sparsely populated ones.

The definition in the Irish Land Act, 1903, of congested estates is also defective, as it largely depends on how much mountain or bog happens to be on the estate and takes no heed of the real poverty or condition of the inhabitants.

As an example of both the above definitions I refer to the electoral division of Cloonfower, which includes a portion of my Clonsilla Estate, which I have just sold to the Estate Commissioners. A great part of the electoral division of Cloonfower is in no sense congested, and yet the whole is scheduled. Again, the Clonsilla Estate is not a congested estate under the 1903 Act, although there are portions, particularly the townland of Cloonbarriff, which are very congested.

A very large portion of the scheduled areas in North Mayo are not congested in the sense that the inhabitants are poor and want State assistance either in the way of enlarging their holdings or otherwise.

If it is decided to retain the system of scheduling districts I would suggest that the better unit to take would be the townland, rather than the electoral division, and that in dealing with the matter other sources of income, such as fishing, possibility of reclamation, employment, etc., should be taken into consideration. An official inspection should be made by a competent person, who should confidentially report to whatever authority is entrusted with the power of declaring or scheduling a district, and such authority should at all times have the right to include townlands in the schedule, and also to remove them from it.

NATURE OF THE DISTRICT.

A totally different state of affairs exists between one truly congested district and another. A remedy that would be useful in one would be impossible in another.

In the sea-board area near Roundstone, Killybegs, Lettermore, Garraha, Carragee, etc., the position is totally different to that, say, around Swinford, or even to that in North Mayo, near Rathladden, Belderg, Inver, and Pullathomas.

The sea is the real source of livelihood to the sea-board population in West and South-West Galway, and it would be hopeless to try migrating them to inland grass lands. They would not know how to use them, and their last state would be worse than the first; moreover, no considerable proportion of the population would agree to go if they were required to surrender their existing holdings.

REMARKS.

(a.) *Moritime Districts in South-West Galway.*—This is probably the worst district in Ireland. Everything possible should be done to increase the earning power of the population; they seem industrious and hard-working, and as long as the potato crop is good they do not complain much. Attempts by interchange of seed should be made to avoid the failure of the crop; facilities for and instruction in spraying should be provided, and the people should be taught by local resident instructors to use their land to the best advantage. It is hopeless to expect any real improvement in this district from migration, and any industries there existing, such as the turf industry, fishing, etc., should be encouraged (e.g., second pier at Owsle), and the people rendered as little dependent as possible on the potato crop.

(b.) *Moritime Districts in North Mayo.*—Rathladden, Belderg, Inver, etc., to Belmullet. In these districts, although there may be a number of very poor people, still, taken as a whole, the population is comparatively comfortable. Their houses are fairly good, and there is no evidence of the extreme poverty that exists in South-West Galway. There is, moreover, particularly round or near Killybegs and Killybegs, a quantity of grass land which could, I believe, be obtained at a fair price without compulsion for the enlargement of holdings. The population is, however, accustomed to obtain its living largely from fishing, and although it might be desirable to somewhat increase the holdings, I do not think it would be at all wise to so increase them as to render agriculture their main source of income.

(c.) *Districts in Mayo south of Belmullet.*—These districts such as Doohoma, Clonsilla, etc., are, no doubt, poor, the land is bad, and there is not much of it capable of cultivation, but what there is of it consists chiefly of land capable of improvement by drainage and otherwise. The population is a comparatively poor one, and there is no other land in the immediate vicinity available for enlargement. Improvement of the fishing, assistance in draining and improving the methods of cultivating the lands, and the exchange of seed potatoes are suggested as remedies.

(d.) *Inland Districts.*—In some of these which border on grass lands the enlargement of holdings, rather than migration, might be useful, but everything possible should be done to encourage all local industries. Foxford is an instance of what can be done in a comparatively short time without any heroic methods of migration.

(e.) *Generally.*—The Congested Districts Board has proved itself the most efficient body for dealing with the question, and if scheduled areas are retained as a basis, the purchase of all lands in the district scheduled should be in their hands, they should have power to buy grass lands outside these districts, and the Estate Commissioners should not in any way interfere with their

operations and should merely be used for the purpose of financing and carrying through (wills, etc.) their purchases and sales.

The income of the Congested Districts Board should be largely increased so as to enable them to give more assistance to the very poor districts, either for building plots, providing roads, making roads, drains, etc., subsidising any industries that may require it, and be useful, &c., &c.

Their work through the Parish Committees should be encouraged and enlarged. In most places where a Parish Committee is at work a great improvement in the condition of the people is visible, but so far these Parish Committees have not done much towards draining and improving the lands as the means at their disposal were insufficient for this purpose. Such work might usefully be done by them, but strict supervision would be necessary, and any committee found to be wasting its funds should at once have them cut off.

In congested areas the work of the Agricultural Department should be left to the Congested Districts Board. The latter body seem to have succeeded better in the poor districts. The Department formulates schemes for whole counties which are not suitable for the very poor districts. Moreover, the Department give instruction chiefly by lectures, whereas the Congested Districts Board go direct to the poor man, and so do not require him to go to them.

I do not wish in any way to suggest that the Department is not doing very useful work. I merely wish to point out that, in my opinion, it is not so well adapted as the Congested Districts Board to carrying on its work in the very poor and congested areas.

MIGRATION AND ENLARGEMENT OF HOLDINGS.

I have not so far dealt specifically with this, which is probably the most important question before the Commission.

I do not think this remedy can be regarded as a complete solution of the problem. If it were possible to carry it out in the wholesale way proposed by Mr. Fitzmaurice and others it would probably lead to complete ruin in many districts. He advocates cutting up almost all the grass land in the country, and dividing it into comparatively small tillage or mixed farms. This would almost necessarily put an end to all market for hay and other similar farm produce; the cost of transit, even at low rates, would prohibit its being transported any great distance, and the small farmer would of necessity be bound to have it consumed on his own farm. This, no doubt, is contemplated, but the difficulty arises that the small farmer would probably not have stock to consume it. It would never pay him to keep his stock a sufficient time, and even if he were able to do so, the stock raised to near maturity on the small farms contemplated must always be of an inferior quality. The best cattle require a large tract, and the consequent change of pastures. Moreover, even now the cost of keeping them on large farms is not extravagant, and the cost of keeping them on small farms would be immensely greater.

I regard the in-feeding of cattle as cut of the question for the small farmer. It necessitates the large use of oats and artificial foodstuffs. Even the larger farmers, with plenty of capital, have found that it does not pay, and have given it up. It has been largely tried at my Glinalta home farm, but without success. I doubt that those who recommend this, including Mr. Doran, have had any experience of it except successful.

However, this complete transformation of the country into small farms is not a practical question as migration on a wholesale scale would be impossible to carry out. The people would not move. No doubt, when a Commission or Inspector goes round many will say they will go, but when it comes to the point of moving the position is very different, e.g., the Glinalta Estate. A large body of tenants said they wanted new holdings and would migrate. The Estates Commissioners insisted on getting land at Belinagare for them. Eventually, with a trivial exception, not one would move, and as the Estates Commissioners find they can buy more grass land than they are able to dispose of to migrants they have not taken 185 acres offered to them at their own valuation.

The enlargement of holdings can, I believe, where grass land adjoins small, poor holdings, be carried out advantageously, and, provided proper steps are taken to ensure that proper use is made of the grass land so added, such enlargement would be beneficial. Great precautions should be taken against subdivision and against constant meadowing, and unless this is done the added land will be ruined. It is quite impossible absolutely to prevent subdivision; it can be kept in check, but the present powers of the Land Commission are wholly inadequate for the purpose, and the idea of rate collectors informing about it is ridiculous. The enlargement of holdings was tried on a very small scale by my late father, in 1870, in Cloonmore. He then cut up a portion of a grass farm and added it to a number of adjoining small holdings. It has, on the whole, worked well, but though everything possible was done to prevent subdivision still such took place and has been now sanctioned by the Estates Commissioners. The added land has, of course, been kept in grass by the tenants, so no doubt will be the case nearly everywhere.

On what was till recently my Belinagare Estate a large quantity of grass land was last May cut up among the tenants, and this year most of it was used by them for meadow, and unless the constant meadowing is prevented the land will be ruined. One result of the cutting up of the grass lands on a large scale in the Belinagare district has been to reduce the price of hay, there being no buyers. I have this year (supply to help tenants) bought hay at £1 per ton, whereas formerly the price used to be double this. If all the grass lands were cut up there would be no market at all.

The powers of the Congested Districts Board and of the Estates Commissioners as to supervision of the use of added land and of new holdings should be largely increased.

Again, where migration takes place, the new occupier should be supplied with ample capital. Up to the present this has not been done. He has generally been transplanted with little or no capital, and with very little knowledge of how to use his new farm. He will naturally use it as a small grass farm, with only sufficient tillage to provide for his family wants.

A large portion of the Roscommon grass farms are unsuited for tillage. They are cold and sticky on limestone, but are good for grass. The only tillage crops that are grown to any extent in Roscommon are oats and potatoes. The grass lands are bad for both of these.

Again the difficulty of turf and water is almost insuperable. It has already caused enormous trouble.

Another objection to migration on a wholesale scale is that the people of the district, even when their own holdings are not very small, greatly resent the introduction of strangers, and great friction will arise if they are brought in. The idea of giving everyone as much as they want is, of course, absurd. In Roscommon the people naturally say that Roscommon men should get any land that is to be divided. My sympathies are with them.

SUPPLY OF GRASS LAND.

There are at present thousands of acres of grass land available in Galway, Mayo, and Roscommon, if a fair price is paid. I know myself many cases where the land can be obtained, and no stronger proof of the supply being greater than the demand exists than that the Commissioners had to give back to me 185 acres which they had agreed to buy and were getting at their own valuation. This land is still available.

No doubt migration and the enlargement of holdings to a reasonable extent can be carried out, and will help to relieve congestion, but more money must be spent over it and in starting the new occupiers than has yet been done.

To my mind one of the most useful ways of helping small tenants in a district where there is grass land near would be for the Congested Districts Board to buy the grass land and let the grazing to the tenants at low rates. The land is grazed much more economically in this way than if it is cut up into small plots. Even if migration on a very large scale is possible plenty of grass lands will still be available if a fair price is given and so great delays occur in carrying out a contract.

APPENDIX III.

PRICE.

It is clear from Mr. Dornan's figures* that up to the present the Congested Districts Board have made remarkably good bargains. As long as they have the lands in hand they receive £25,000 a year as grazing receipts for land valued at £16,500 a year, for which they pay the Land Commission much less than they receive.

They do this even though they let the grazing at 30 per cent. less than the actual price, and, as regards lands they farm themselves, owing to the magnitude of their operations, they cannot do so with the same ease as regards buying stock as the ordinary grazer.

Their own figures prove conclusively that the land is worth more than they are giving for it.

Again, as to the possibility of a fall in value there is an equal chance of a rise. The importation of Canadian cattle would cut down the price of young stock and so injure the small men, but it would rather help the grazer with good land, as he could get his stock so much cheaper, and thereby the value of the grass land would increase.

As present there is no difficulty (when no boycotting) in getting grazer-tenants, and many graziers have been grazing the same lands for years.

DELAY IN COMPLETING SALES.

This is one of the chief causes that prevents owners of both tenanted and untenanted land selling. If the vendors were guaranteed (provided he were not in default) 4 per cent. on his purchase money from a period of six months after lodgment of the original request or application, there would be hundreds of owners willing to sell who now are afraid of the delay.

It has been said that the delay is largely caused by the vendors or their solicitors. This is absurd, as it is obvious that vendors and their solicitors would not delay so much more (if at all) in sales to the Commission as compared with sales to ordinary purchasers, and yet in the latter case a month to six weeks is a usual period to elapse in the conditions of sale for the proving of title and completion. I can quote instances.

COMPULSION.

This is quite unnecessary as any quantity of grass lands can be bought without it if a fair price be given, and, above all, delay in completion be avoided.

Some of the witnesses whom dealing with the question of price say the graziers are in a bad way and are gradually getting into difficulties. If this is so it is obviously the better course to wait, so as to get the land cheaper.

Mr. Dornan argues that if lands are not got now they never can be, as they are being sold and there are many anxious to buy. This does not look as if grazing was a failing business. If they are being sold too cheaply the graziers will not be able to make them pay, and they will again come into the market cheap. If they are being sold too low the Congested Districts Board can offer more and buy. He admits an enormous quantity of grazing land is on the market.

Again, if compulsion is to be used and the grazer evicted, it can be done just as well after he has bought as now.

The demand for powers of compulsory purchase has arisen because landlords regard many of the prices hitherto offered as inadequate and unfair. If fair prices were given there would be no grounds for proposing compulsion. My idea of a fair price would be

as follows, and I believe that on such terms all land required could be obtained without compulsion.

The annual value of the required untenanted land should, unless the owner elects to prove the contrary, be taken to be one and a third times the poor law valuation, i.e., the normal standard for income tax. The double interest of owner and occupier would thus be provided for. But as in many cases the poor law valuation is largely under the net actual income the owner should have the option of proving, by means of his books or otherwise, on sworn evidence, before a judicial tribunal, the actual net receipts, and where he exercised this option the net receipts so proved should be treated as the annual value.

The vendor should then get such capital sum as would yield him as income the net value thus ascertained.

The objection to taking in all cases the net receipts is that, where a man farms his own lands, it is often impossible to ascertain exactly what are the net receipts. The lands required may be farmed jointly with other lands, and it may be impossible to allocate the profits. Again, a great many resident owners, largely for the purpose of giving employment, employ more labour than is necessary, and thereby reduce the profits. It would be unfair to penalize them. This has been done on the Clonsilla Estate for many years, and the farming profits on it are consequently small, but the labour bill comes to over £1,000 a year.

Mr. Dornan's evidence,* moreover, shows conclusively that the true value of the grass lands is largely in excess of the *prima facie* standard which I suggest above, and consequently the owner should have the option of proving the actual profits where he is able to do so.

The standard above suggested for arriving at the fair price of untenanted lands would do away with the great uncertainty that now prevails when the price is left to be fixed by valuers, who differ enormously in their views. The uncertainty of the results of such valuations could not be better illustrated than by the correspondence which has appeared in *The Times* for many months past as to the extraordinary discrepancies in the valuations of one the most eminent professional valuers in England.

LANDLORDS.

Before concluding I would like to say one word about landlords of the West. It has been alleged that they did nothing for their tenants. I repudiate this.

On the Clonsilla Estate, for many years past, more than the whole rental of the estate has been spent annually in labour there.

In 1830 or thereabouts my father spent over £1,000 in relief of distress works on the property, chiefly on tenants' holdings. When seed potatoes were necessary he has often given them out free to his tenants under 25 valuation, and I am doing so this year. He constantly gave his tenants timber, oats, for their houses, building bridges, etc., and although I have sold the property I am continuing this practice. Another practice that greatly assisted the tenants was to allow them to pay the rent by feeding one or more head of young cattle. Although I have sold the property I had a number of applications for cattle in order to pay the Land Commission rent. I sent out cattle to the poorest, although it is not a very paying way of feeding them.

I believe there are many landlords who have assisted their tenants in similar ways.

To summarize the whole situation, I say give the Congested Districts Board ample funds and full powers of regulating holdings and carrying out drainage works, a proper staff, and ensure quick payments of purchase money to vendors, and they will be able to do a very great deal towards ameliorating the lot of the poor in the West of Ireland.

* See Appendix to First Report of the Commission [C.D. 5237, 1906], p. 49.

APPENDIX IV.

APPENDIX IV.

DOCUMENT put in by Mr. J. L. PHOET, in connection with the evidence given by him before the Commission.

Memorandum on the working of the Irish Land Act, 1903, as bearing upon the question of the destruction of timbertrees and plantations, and the reservation to the State of surplus waste lands for forestry and other purposes of general public utility.

The reservation to, and the management by, the State for purposes of forestry or in general interests of moor, mountain and bog lands, not required for pasturage and agriculture in Ireland, is a necessity if the land is to be economically utilized. Because—

(a.) There are immense tracts of such land.
(b.) The best, if not the only use to which much of the "waste" land can be applied is the production of timber, or of minor forest products such as osiers for the fishing industry.

(c.) It is accepted, as the result of various government and parliamentary Commissions of Inquiry, that forests, properly managed under the conditions as to soil and climate which obtain generally in Ireland, are in themselves a sound financial investment, apart from many economic advantages derivable from their existence. While, in the case of turf bogs of large extent, it is very doubtful whether reclamation for agriculture can be really economically effected without State aid or intervention.

(d.) The State is generally the only proprietor who can afford to incur the initial high cost of planting or reclamation on an extensive scale; who can afford to wait until the woods, etc., begin to yield interest on the capital invested; and who, above all, perhaps, is in a position to secure that continuity in the system of management which, in the case of forestry at least, is a condition essential to success.

These considerations have, no doubt, all along applied. But, concurrently with the operation of the Land Purchase Acts, and especially in connection with the working of the Act of 1903, the question has become of more immediate interest and importance. If extensive tracts of waste land are to be acquired for afforestation, fairly free from adverse rights and at a reasonable cost, it is almost a case of "now or never." For once allow such land to be transferred from large owners to numerous small peasant proprietors with divergent interests, the difficulty of securing sufficiently large and conveniently situated tracts of arable, commuting, or transferring rights of pasturage and passage, will be enormously increased, apart altogether from the increased price which, in such circumstances, would probably have to be paid for the land.

Ireland was formerly well-wooded and noted for the excellence of its timber supplies. In comparison with great timber-producing countries, such as Russia and Norway, it is very favourably circumstanced for the practice of economic forestry. Potentially one of the best timber-growing countries it now is, with the exception of Pectinag, the best-wooded of Europe.* The Land Act of 1903 has aggravated the position. For not merely has the working of the Act had directly the rapid, reckless and important felling of trees, and to the permanent destruction of woodland crops throughout the country, but the very existence of woods in present conditions interferes with and retards the transfer of tenanted or untenanted (grassy) lands. Apart from the woods included in residential demesnes and existing woods of considerable extent which might, without undue cost, be preserved by vendors for sporting or other purposes, many of the lands already planted are so small in area or so situated that they could not be effectually protected from injury, still less preserved for game, once the surrounding wooded or grass lands are sold. A wood of this class may be on rough mountain land, or on shallow or partly drained bog, and might with advantage to the neighbourhood or to the country as a whole be preserved or added to, were there any person or public body directly interested in safeguarding it. Experience has already shown that, in the case of estates purchased by the Land Commission under

Section 6 of the Act, the increased value of the estate after re-arrangement of the holdings and the subdivision of untenanted lands may allow of woods of this kind (originally, perhaps, cheaply purchased) being re-sold at a low figure or retained by the Nation almost free of cost on the purchase-account. Possibly, on the other hand, such a wood might properly be disposed, having regard to its prospective value or to the exigencies of agriculture in the vicinity. There is, however, nobody, no agency or State department to decide or to advise with authority. The wood, being an incumbrance to the vendor who can find no purchaser save a timber merchant, consequently disappears, often while the trees are still immature. The draining of the soil and the planting may have been paid for by a loan from public funds. I learned of one case where, a dispute having occurred between the vendor and his tenants (who had signed purchase-agreements) regarding the rights to the timber, vendor and tenants in competition removed and sold all the available trees with the utmost despatch.

Once the fee-simple of the land is vested in a tenant-purchaser, the latter has full right to fell and sell timber growing on the land, unless, in so doing, he lowers unduly the value of the land as security for the purchase money advanced. Yet, even if the Land Commission have the right to intervene it lacks the power to prevent. Consequently, trees on purchased holdings are being felled at an increasingly rapid rate, and often in sheer ignorance of the real value of the timber for purposes of shelter, construction, etc.

The presence of existing, scattered woods may, as long as the trees remain unfelled, prevent a landlord from selling his estate to the Land Commission, which while engaged to hold woodlands temporarily, has no means of managing or even of protecting them for the time being. Cases have arisen where the Land Commission, after purchasing an estate for re-sale, has found the existing woods a source of embarrassment.

If this be so while estates are, in the main, sold under arrangements made directly between vendor and tenant, in what manner may a large increase of sales to the Land Commission be expected to affect the question? If compulsory sale should be sanctioned by law I assume that practically all the untenanted land of poor quality in each estate affected must be purchased, not merely such land as might immediately serve for the enlargement of holdings or in schemes of migration.

While the difficulty of dealing with existing woods or plantations would be increased proportionately to the greater wooded area purchased by the Land Commission, the means for acquiring extensive tracts of mountain and heath land, suited to planting, would be immensely facilitated owing to the opportunities afforded by the re-arrangement of the estates prior to re-sale to the tenants. No such opportunities on so great a scale are ever likely to recur. Neglect to take advantage of, or at least to study them with a view to the creation of national forest estates may be considered in connection with the report of the Departmental (Board of Agriculture) Committee, appointed in 1903, on British forestry. That report brought out that "The great area of waste lands in these islands, which might be afforested and with regard to which such valuable evidence has been led, thus becomes a matter of grave national concern."

The land which might become available for tree-planting on an extensive scale may, perhaps, be conveniently classed as under:—

(a) Mountain and heath land.

(b) Turf bogs.

* Woods area in Ireland 2.6 per cent., British Isles 4 per cent., France 22 per cent., Germany 32 per cent.

APPENDIX IV.

- (d) Narrow ravines, steep slopes, and rocky or poor land in sub-terranean or low-lying districts generally.

The mountain and heath lands, comprising in all some 2½ million acres, are the tracts naturally best suited to economic forestry. Draining, before planting, is usually unnecessary or inexpensive; fencing and general protection may be economically arranged for wherever blocks of land sufficiently large, and with suitable boundaries can be secured; while conditions as to soil and climate are certainly not less favorable than in other European countries where forestry for very many years has been successfully practised on similar lands. The slopes of ravines, and also rocky land, are often eminently suited to profitable tree-planting. There is no reason to doubt that mountain land in Ireland at one time comprised vast tracts of natural forest, whose restoration would greatly improve the natural drainage of the whole country. Whatever measure of fact may underlie the various theories as to the origin of the bogs in Ireland, it will scarcely be questioned that the destruction of the forests in historic times, and especially the desolation of the hillsides and ravines, must have aggravated the condition of the bogs and of low-lying lands, and that re-forestation could not fail in inducing a salutary effect and in improving generally the natural drainage of the country.

The total area of turf bog is returned at about 1,300,000 acres,* of which (according to a statement prepared in the office of the Estates Commissioners) only 300,000 acres are unenclosed. Of the total area, about 6½ m. are, according to the Report of the Bog Commissioners, 1814, comprised between two straight lines drawn from Howth Head to Sligo, and from Wexford Head to Galway. Large areas of turf bog might, no doubt, be made available for planting. But planting on a bog deeper than three or four feet is generally hazardous culturally and unprofitable financially. Timber of good quality, but usually of the cheaper kinds, can, no doubt, be grown on deep bog which has been drained and to some extent gravelled or otherwise manured. Yet in bog land generally, the acidity and meagreness of the bog substance and the absence of mineral nutrients must be overcome before plants which strike deep into the soil can thrive. The draining and manuring necessary to secure this condition entail, in forestry, an original capital outlay so heavy that financial profit can usually not be expected. But I think the weightiest arguments against any attempt to convert on a large scale Irish turf bogs is that those latter, unlike high mountain and moor lands, may possibly hereafter be profitably reclaimed for pasture and field crops. The Bog Commissioners stated (3rd Report, 1814), in connection with improvements undertaken on the Drifon and French Estates, that "the red bogs may all be reduced to tracts of profitable pasture and meadow, and in many cases may be applied to the produce of oats and potatoes, if gravel can be had from the under strata, as at Anglaterra." In their final report (1814) the Commissioners said:—

"From all the above data we can confidently pronounce that the extent of Peat Soil in Ireland exceeds two millions eight hundred and thirty thousand English acres, of which we have shown at least 1,576,000 to consist of flat red bog, all of which, according to the opinions above detailed, might be converted to the general purposes of agriculture; the remaining 1,255,000 acres form the covering of mountains, of which a very large proportion might be improved at a small expense, for pasture, or still more beneficially applied to the purpose of plantation: we wish, indeed, it were possible for our Reports to fix the attention of their proprietors upon this subject, so connected with the interests of the British Empire."

At that time the wonderful results obtained cheaply in improving waste land (as in Luxembourg and Holland) by the use of lime and artificial manures, such as kainit and bone slag, were unknown. With intensive cultivation and quick returns an capital outlay the turf bogs may hereafter pay well in agriculture where success in forestry must at best be doubtful or mediocre. With extensive mountain tracts, then, naturally adapted to forest culture, I would role out as unsuited to tree-planting all bogs of large extent or more than a few feet deep.

It seems impossible to forecast, with any approach to accuracy, what total area of mountain or moor land might be acquired for forestry purposes. The agricultural returns afford no precise indications. Thus, of the 2½ million acres of "barren mountain

land" in Ireland, it appears that (excluding such mountain as may be included as "Commons") only 254,000 acres are unenclosed. In addition, there are 200,000 acres of unenclosed land, with a Poor Law valuation ranging up to 2s. 6d. per acre, some or most of which is probably mountain pasture. I think it unreasonable to suppose that waste land for forestry purposes should be sought for only amongst these 454,000 acres of unenclosed land. Land of this class may be tenanted one year and unenclosed the next.

The Poor Law valuation indicates to some extent the present utility of these tracts. The valuation of the entire area of 354,000 acres of unenclosed mountain is, on the average, 5s. 4d. per acre; that of the 226,000 acres valued up to 2s. 6d. is, all round, only 5s. 4d. an acre. In evidence which applied to the West Committee, from West Cork to Donegal, given before the Select Committee on Forestry, 1887, it was stated that immense areas could be acquired for about 10s. an acre, and that the people—in Connemara at least—would cheerfully acquiesce in reservation for forestry purposes on account of the betterment of their holdings and the provision of forest produce which tree-planting would secure. The result of my own inquiries certainly does not accord with this evidence. Yet there are two outstanding particulars in point. First, that the real value of tracts of the land to the peasantry must often be very small, and compensation for disturbance, if paid in cash, would be correspondingly low. And, secondly, that many people may be expected to relinquish willingly their poor rights, enabling them to pasture a few animals over large tracts, in exchange for a very much smaller area of good land near to their homesteads. Compulsory sale, the division of unenclosed pasture lands, and the re-arrangement of holdings would give opportunities of effecting such exchange. It does not appear unreasonable to assume that tracts of suitable waste land, much in excess of the area which it would be practicable to plant within, say, fifty years, might be acquired at a low cost per acre. There are at present, according to the agricultural returns, 201,000 acres of woods and plantations, of which 33,000 acres are classed as unenclosed, the balance (168,000 acres) being presumably included for the most part in demesne land. Assuming that all these woods ought to be permanently maintained—a very improbable contingency—and that it were desired to increase the area-percentage of forested land in Ireland to the figure for the United Kingdom (4 per cent.), the present total wooded area should be increased from 201,000 to 773,000 acres. Apart from mountain and bog, there are, as said above, some 226,000 acres of unenclosed land, well suited for the enlargement of uneconomic holdings, of which the total valuation is only £10,128. The whole of this might possibly be acquired for a payment of from £150,000 to £200,000. In countries such as Germany, or even in small States like Belgium, where the value of forests in rural and national economy is well understood by those in authority who are supported by informed public opinion, opportunities such of these of adding to the national forest wealth would not be lightly disregarded.

The probability seems to be that more land than could in reason be utilised in forestry might be secured on easy terms. Thus in poor estates in the West, where the sporting rights may bring in one-half or more of the total rental, a proprietor might easily evidence any opportunity of parting with mountains, provided he retained the sporting rights which in many cases are much enhanced in value as a result of planting. The acquisition of large blocks of land is desirable in connection with economical forest management, and this object might be seriously interfered with were it possible to deal only with the mountain waste included in one or in several disconnected estates in the same neighborhood. Yet, while large tracts seem generally desirable for forestry, I think it would, for various reasons, be well to commence any great scheme of planting with smaller areas, say, of about 500 acres, situated not far from villages or supplies of labour.

The Select Committee of the House of Commons on Forestry reported (1887), amongst other matters, that strong evidence had been given before them that large tracts of land, especially in Scotland and Ireland, might be planted with advantage. The Commission referred to the considerable social and economic advantages which, apart from any immediate pecuniary benefits, would accrue from the

*Exclusive of 200,000 acres of marsh, as well as, presumably, of all shallow bog on "barren mountain land."

extensive system of planting, especially on the West side of Ireland, and dwell upon the importance of tree-planting as an accessory to agriculture. The Departmental Committee, appointed by the Board of Agriculture in 1903 to report upon British forestry, did not specially extend its inquiries to Ireland. It reported that, on the highest authority, there is in the United Kingdom a very large area of waste, heath and rough pasture, or land out of cultivation, amounting in all to 21,000,000 acres on a large proportion of which forestry could be profitably undertaken; that, even with indifferent management, excellent returns had often been obtained from plantations formed on land of little or no value for any other purpose; that the possibilities of forestry as a means of furnishing remunerative labour to an increased rural population are great; and that the proper utilisation of waste lands had become a matter of grave national concern. At that time the present rapid disintegration of landed interests in Ireland had not commenced, and the Committee did "not feel justified in urging the Government to embark tentatively upon any general scheme of State forests under present circumstances." The general importance of the question has since been further recognised by regular grants from the Treasury for aiding instruction in forestry.

With the exception of a few woods vested in the Department of Agriculture, Section 4 of the Land Act of 1903 has proved inoperative in preserving woods and plantations or in the selling apart of lands for planting. In 1904 this Department represented to the Estates Commissioners that it had previously been deterred from exercising its functions in the matter of forestry because suitable land was almost entirely in private hands, but that the Act of 1903 had fundamentally changed the conditions. Arrangements were accordingly made whereby the Department should be given the option of purchasing any woods or lands suited to planting offered for sale to the Commissioners. But nothing was done owing, not to lack of opportunity to acquire suitable lands, but to want of funds, and also, perhaps, to the fact that the Department is unprovided with any proper

agency for dealing with the forestry question. Under the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act of 1899, County Councils are empowered to settle a rate for forestry purposes, but only a few of the counties appear to have moved in the matter. In this case also funds were wanting, apart from other difficulties, and practically nothing has been done. In November, 1905, the Department of Agriculture drew the attention of County Committees of Agriculture to "the present wholesale destruction of timber trees in many districts of Ireland, where trees are being cut down without regard to their present usefulness for shelter or ornament, or to their value as timber when felled"; and the Committees were invited to co-operate in "arresting the general policy of destruction," and to encourage tree-planting. Such circulars can be of little avail. The evil cannot be treated by putting up warning notices at the constabulary barracks.

Section 4 of the Act of 1903 presumably aimed at the reservation, for management in public or general interests, of portions of wastes which can be more economically utilized for forestry and other purposes named than by being sold to individuals. In this aim, so far as forestry is concerned, not merely has the Act equally failed—it has operated in the directly contrary direction. The actions of vendors, tenant purchasers, and of the Land Commission all tend to destroy or lessen the timber resources, already so inadequate, of the country. On the other hand, the administrative department, expressly constituted by the legislature to deal with the subject, practically acknowledges its impotence to remedy the evils which it deplores, or to profit by the openings given by the Land Act.

The western counties offer the greatest scope both for the protection of existing woodlands and for the reservation to the State of lands for afforestation. The following tabular statement compares the areas of wood, bog, mountain, and of unestimated land valued at 2s. 6d. an acre or less, for each of the administrative counties comprising congested electoral divisions, with the corresponding areas for the whole of Ireland:—

County.	TOTAL AREA.			SUBDIVISIONS.			
	Woods.	Peat Bog.	Europe Mountain.	Woods.	Bog and "Bog and Plantation."	Mountain.	Land valued at 2s. 6d. an acre or less.
Donegal,	4,098.	49,743.	448,069.	4,098.	4,776.	2,076.	4,896.
Sligo,	6,314.	69,743.	648,069.	1,440.	4,457.	65,661.	25,755.
Galway,	24,087.	167,467.	215,668.	5,737.	60,462.	12,671.	56,176.
Leitrim,	2,220.	26,767.	36,455.	1,216.	6,571.	18,343.	5,066.
Mayo,	7,751.	105,468.	617,622.	695.	14,766.	68,245.	51,765.
Connemara,	7,643.	71,867.	6,856.	4,642.	66,150.	1,640.	5,840.
Slip,	7,913.	48,632.	16,442.	6,125.	6,125.	11,942.	15,799.
Clare,	5,106.	28,546.	76,164.	1,364.	5,126.	1,618.	14,864.
Kerry,	16,737.	96,476.	324,556.	6,127.	5,695.	6,614.	45,565.
Cork,	28,674.	54,154.	221,565.	6,069.	4,612.	6,626.	12,856.
TOTAL,	127,040.	680,263.	1,665,768.	25,697.	156,716.	167,274.	226,646.
AND REMAINS, ..	561,191.	1,065,768.	1,265,550.	10,327.	287,677.	615,947.	226,500.

Total areas abstracted from Agricultural Statistics (Ireland) 1905. Unestimated areas taken from a statement prepared in the office of the Estates Commissioners from a Return prepared by the Commissioners of Valuation.

These counties contain nearly one-third of the total wooded area in Ireland, and of "mountain" about 70 per cent. of the area classed as such; while they include over 60 per cent. of the unestimated land valued at not more than 2s. 6d.

Assuming that a scheme of compulsory purchase, such as that proposed to the Commission* were applied, the State would become the proprietor of practically all the waste lands in these districts. No re-arrangement of agricultural holdings could possibly deal finally with all these lands; while, on the other hand, until the holdings were in course of re-arrangement it would be impossible to say definitely what lands are or are not "waste," or where and how much of the waste is best suited to profitable tree-planting. All that seems possible to predict is that, in the course of such a scheme of compulsory purchase, the agency responsible for distributing

the lands will find itself compelled to set apart extensive tracts of waste moor and mountain, and that the lands so set apart will ultimately prove more or less suited to economic forestry according as timely measures are taken, while the general land-settlement of the country is still in progress, to inspect and classify them, and to arrange suitable boundaries as well as the rights of use to which they must remain subject. Very possibly larger areas might be set apart than the State itself could reasonably expect ever to plant up. That would be, I think, no reason why the State should not temporarily hold excess waste lands for subsequent disposal.

The permanent conservation of existing woods and the afforestation of waste lands on a large scale in the congested districts would seem to involve something more than the "improvement" of estates purchased by the Land Commission, as contemplated

*See Appendix to the Third Report of the Commission (1911, 1917), p. 236, p. 1922.

APPENDIX IV.

by the Act of 1863. But forestry, according to the Commissioners of Inquiry on the subject, would improve generally the condition of the West, and was within the purview of the work of the Congested Districts Board. The agency administering compulsory purchase in the congested districts could, no doubt, if properly equipped, undertake new planting and manage existing woods. But such an agency could only touch one side of the forest question in Ireland. It would not hinder the rapid and reckless destruction of timber in other parts of the country. In the case of direct sales of land, vendors are now constantly selling to tenants lands some of which are, economically, surplus lands for the tenants' purposes, and are thus perpetuating and increasing the difficulties in the way of properly utilizing such lands. The obstacles at present in the way of preserving outlying woods, surrounded by newly-purchased tenanted lands, are not experienced in the West only. And in other parts there are extensive mountain tracts, some of which are known to be suited to planting, as in Tipperary (68,000 acres) and Tyrone (202,000 acres).

Again, any comprehensive scheme of State forestry must be permanent in its nature, and could only mature financially a century or two hence, when the problem of congestion will have been forgotten. From the financial standpoint, money carefully invested in forestry may offer as good security as (in the opinion of some it offers security better than) an investment secured on agricultural land. But it is quite certain that advances made by the State for purposes of economic forestry (i.e., forestry so regulated as to give the highest possible net return to the money on the capital invested) could not be recovered with the certainty and regularity expected in the case of Irish land-purchase advances.

The cost of forestry operations embraces capital and maintenance charges. The former include the cost of the land (a very important item), draining (if needed), fencing and planting. These charges, as well as the question of profit, vary so greatly according to the locality, situation and extent of the land, quality of the soil, kind of trees planted, labour facilities, &c., that no all-round rates or estimates can be relied upon. The leading British authority, Dr. Schlich, when reporting to the Congested Districts Board in 1886, estimated the cost as follows per acre for planting in Galway:—

Draining,	£1 10 0
Fencing,	20 10 0
Planting,	22 0 0
	£42 0 0

He subsequently estimated the cost of planting mountain and heath land per acre generally at rates ranging from £3 10s. 6d. for Spruce, to £6 8s. 6d. for Ash and Oak, and set the cost of fencing against shooting rents. Looking after the woods, as well as rates and taxes, he estimated at a total of 4s. an acre yearly. On these data he showed ("Forestry in the United Kingdom," Chap. 3) that, on mountain and heath land of average quality, valued at £2 an acre, money invested on planting would yield compound interest as follows:—

Larch planting,	5.1 per cent.
Ash,	4.5 per cent.
Scots pine,	3.8 per cent.
Spruce,	3.6 per cent.
Beech, oak,	3.2 per cent.

It has been calculated on a cautious basis that suitable land of average quality, bought for £2 an acre, and planted with (say) Scots Pine, would yield nearly 4 per cent. compound interest on the original outlay. The first cost of planting is taken at £4, and the annual cost of maintenance at 4s. per acre. The total return in money would be collected somewhat as follows up to the eightieth year after planting, when the trees are assumed to become mature.

Scots Pine per acre	Thinings at 30th year,	40 10 0
	Thinings at 40th year,	2 10 0
	Thinings at 50th year,	7 0 0
	Thinings at 60th year,	9 10 0
	Thinings at 70th year,	11 10 0
	Final felling, 80th year,	143 0 0
		£174 0 0

This estimate is based on the assumption that timber of large dimensions is required. But it, as would often be the case, the scheme of management provided only for small timber, poles and pitwood (for which there is an inextinguishable demand), the interest on the capital invested might well be considerably higher than four per cent. Thus were land to be grown on fairly good land, thinned out at the 30th and 40th years after planting, and finally felled at the 40th, the investment might yield eight to ten per cent. on the capital outlay. Low valuable timber, like spruce and pine, similarly treated, might reasonably be expected to yield five or six per cent. Sir Herbert Maxwell, before the Society of Arts, gave in detail his reasons for believing that mixed pine and larch, properly grown on mountain pasture land, which now lies at 2s. an acre, would bring in annually, on the average, 37s. 6d. an acre. On the other hand, with beech and oak, the interest on capital would be lower, and the final return might not be obtainable before 100 or 150 years after planting.

The profit obtainable thus depends largely on the kind and size of timber required, as well as on the situation and quality of the land. Those who have studied the question are generally agreed that the afforestation of waste lands can be easily defended on financial grounds, provided sites for planting are judiciously selected, and the management is throughout really economical. Subject to this limitation, expenditure by the State on forestry would be in no sense a grant but an advance recoverable with interest. The period of loan, however, as well as the rate of interest obtained, would necessarily vary, as the nature of the forests and their treatment varied from place to place. Until, therefore, the lands were definitely selected, and plans of work decided for each locality, it would be impracticable to frame a general estimate governing all cases.

Assuming that 250,000 acres of suitable land were to be acquired forthwith by the State, and set apart for afforestation, it is practically certain that the major part of the area selected would remain unplanted for many years to come. The cost of management would lessen as the area planted annually or bi-4-to-date was increased. But, assuming that the forest budget for expenditure (apart from the cost of the land) were limited for the next twenty years to £20,000 annually, the charges might, very roughly, be apportioned as follows yearly:—

Administration and supervision of woods,	22,000
New planting, 3,000 acres annually at 25 s. an acre,	£35,000
Maintenance, repairs, protection, &c.,	23,000
	£80,000

At that rate more than eighty years would be necessary for afforesting the 250,000 acres set apart, and more than 100 would elapse ere the plantations generally would be returning profit on the capital. With double the expenditure the period of waiting would be halved. The figures indicate that if the State waits to acquire the land until the money for planting is made available, it will probably never secure the land or need the money for planting.

Having regard to the foregoing considerations, I think that a special Forestry Branch should be incorporated with the Department of Agriculture and Technical Industries. The Department would take over (and plant up as funds permitted) surplus Crown waste lands previously ascertained to be suitable for afforestation, as well as any plantations purchased under the Act (by the Estates Commissioners or the Congested Districts Board) which ought to be permanently preserved. The Department should also be in a position to purchase waste land or forested woods direct from vendors of land. It would further be charged with the management of Crown woods now existing, as well as with such silvicultural or arboricultural work as is now performed under various Government authorities. Amongst its more important duties would be the collection and diffusion of useful information bearing upon tree-planting in relation to agriculture and the raising of stock, as is done by the Forestry Bureau of the United States Government. The Department, in short, would deal with forestry as part of the general question of land settlement, with a view to improve agriculture and

develop industries by assisting in arboriculture on farms and by creating a national forest property.

With the exception of a very small quantity, relatively, of fancy and hard woods, Ireland might not merely supply herself with all the timber she now imports or could consume but might export to Britain. Prices are rising and the sources of timber-supply steadily lessening. Already the annual value of timber imported into the United Kingdom approaches 20 millions sterling, of which some nine-tenths, according to the experts, represents timber which might equally well be grown at home. Evidence before the Forestry Commission showed how industrial development would follow upon the afforestation of waste lands. The chain-making industry in Buckinghamshire owes its existence to, though it no longer depends solely upon the local woods, and it supports tens of thousands of people. Wood-pulp to the value of £1 million pounds sterling is annually imported into the United Kingdom, and, as a writer on the subject remarks, "Scarcely 'if we can grow anything, we can grow timber fit for wood-pulp!'"

I am not competent to deal with the financial questions which would be involved in the carrying into effect of the scheme of forest work outlined above. Funds to a certain minimum amount should be earmarked for new planting for instructional purposes. Perhaps the Crown quit rents and the sums for which they are redeemed under the Land Act might be so utilized. It is understood that practically the whole of the large sums received as Quit Rents have been applied by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests in the acquisition or development of Crown property in England. The main duty of the Agricultural Department is regard to forestry work, as I conceive, is to acquire suitable lands while it is still possible to acquire them at all. The advantages claimed for national forestry in Ireland can only be secured if a sufficient area of suitable land is obtained fairly cheaply in advance. And further, if, as seems to be

the case, very large tracts of suitable land may be secured very cheaply, money invested in their purchase must be the best possible investment at the present time in any large scheme of national-economic forestry.

I think the protection of isolated trees or of shelter-belt timber in holdings vested under the Land Purchase Acts should be rendered easier or possible by a change in the law. As affecting the security for the advance, or the real interest of the tenant-purchaser, or the amenities of country life generally, it seems deplorable to leave the door open for the present widespread destruction of hedgerow and other trees. But it may be noted that former laws, or the terms on which the tenantry were required to plant or to refrain from cutting timber trees, often operated very harshly. This is particularly so with Ash (a very common tree), whether isolated or planted in hedges, especially on tillage farms. This tree (though so valuable when grown in plantations) poisons the soil for pasture and tillage by its root-system, apart from the damage which may result from its shade. I would not lightly throw any obstacle in the way of the removal of such agricultural pests.

I have stated above that I would rule out as unsuited to profitable tree-planting all large or deep surplus turf bogs. Nevertheless, as for surplus mountain lands, I think that the State should temporarily hold surplus turf bogs of large extent which may come into its possession, and should retain them in conditions allowing of economical schemes of reclamation, re-sale, or utilization hereafter. Fifty years hence compressed turf may be as valuable in Ireland for railway fuel as it now is in different parts of Germany. The fact that so little has been done in reclaiming turf bogs for agriculture or pasture during the past century is by itself no warranty of the results of the next, or sufficient ground for argument that the schemes of the Bog Commissioners, prepared after such exhaustive inquiry in 1850-54, were visionary.